Hafa Adai!

SUNDAY

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you conduct emergency drills at home?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Tricked Out

Skateboarding pro Pierre Andre Senizergues' home is highly personal, as stunning as his signature aerial maneuvers.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING... Page 10

Pricey Bailout

The Bush administration has laid out a radical bailout plan with a jawdropping price tag–half-trillion dollars.

UNITED STATES...Page 17

Time Eater

Most clocks just tell time, simply and reliably. Not the $1.8 million "time eater" formally unveiled in Cambridge.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

'Suspected drug dealer had just wired $10,000' PAGE 3

In America's shadow, paradise found. PAGE 5

BEH to re-inspect public schools

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A wreath is offered in commemoration of the 39th Annual Chief Aghurubw festivities on the island of Mañagaha yesterday.

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental Health is re-inspecting several schools after it was discovered sanitation permits were not properly distributed.

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Chief Aghurubw is remembered

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

More than a hundred members of the Carolinian community turned out yesterday to show their respect to Chief Aghurubw at the 39th annual commemoration on Managaha Island.

Nearly 200 years ago, Chief Aghurubw sailed from Satawal in the Caroline Islands after the

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Over 75 percent of high school girls get HPV vaccine

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

More than three-fourths of CNMI high school girls have been vaccinated with the human papillomavirus vaccine last year as part of the Department of Public Health's campaign to prevent cervical cancer.

Within the entire CNMI, 76 percent of girls were vaccinated, DPH Immunization coordinator Mariana Sablan said.

On Rota, all 91 girls were vaccinated, while 90 percent of girls on Tinian were vaccinated. On Saipan, 75 percent of public school girls and 82 percent of private school girls, for a total of 80 percent, were vaccinated. The female students received

See OVER on Page 4

By V. DION HAYNES
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Nurse Jennifer Dimmick helped her 71-year-old patient, George Mulligan, struggle from a chair to his feet for his daily walk around the corridor outside his room at Inova Fairfax Hospital.

During the previous three days following Mulligan's aortic valve replacement surgery, Dimmick was preparing him to care for himself after his discharge—demonstrating how he should gingerly lift

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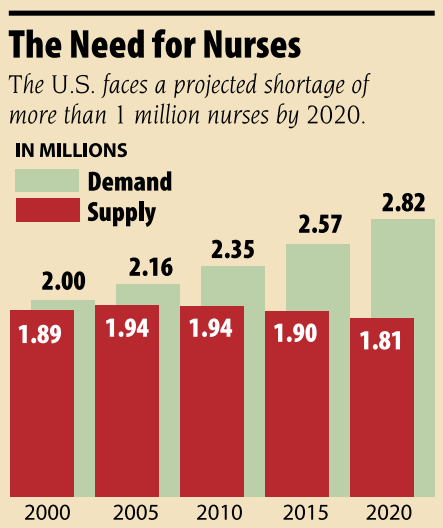
THE WASHINGTON POST

Nurse Jennifer Dimmick adjusts blankets for George Mulligan, 71, of Alexandria, Va. "Autonomy is a big thing," said Dimmick, who works at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Virginia.



Looking for new ways to attract, retain nurses

Around the CNMI

DPH lobbying to keep one of its doctors

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Health is working with the CNMI Legislature to change the wording of a public law that is preventing one of the island's doctors from working.

Under Public Law 15-108, known as the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007, employment by the Commonwealth government is limited to citizens and permanent residents. There are exemptions for several governmental agencies, including DPH. Within DPH, physicians or dentists who are board-certified in the United States or Canada are eligible to practice.

However, non-citizen and non-resident physicians who are only U.S. board-eligible, as is one doctor at DPH, are not able to practice, said DPH Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez.

Villagomez said they are working with the Legislature to try to change the wording.

According to the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007, the law is necessary to provide a local work force that is well qualified for the growth and development of the CNMI's economy. Under the Act, citizens and permanent residents "must be given preference over foreign workers imported to fill specific jobs."

Also, according to the Act, wages must be increased for citizens and permanent residents to make the jobs more attractive, otherwise "much of the Commonwealth's investment in secondary and post-secondary education for its citizens will be lost as those citizens migrate outside the Commonwealth to find good paying jobs."

Last year, outgoing Medical Affairs Division director Dr. Robin Shearer said the CNMI continues to suffer from a lack of medical professionals because the salaries and compensation are not competitive to those in the U.S. and other areas. In the CNMI, physician salaries are capped at $50,000. Gov. Benigno Fitial last month vetoed legislation to raise the cap.

ROTA BEACH CLEANUP STEFAN SEBASTIAN

Volunteers on Rota take part in the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup Friday by picking up trash on the local beach. More than 230 volunteers turned out for the event.

'Suspected dealer had just wired $10,000'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Yong Ming Song, who was reportedly caught with 176.6 grams of methamphetamine or "ice" worth $80,000, had just wired a total of $10,000 to China in two days, according to a Drug Enforcement Administration agent.

In his report, DEA special agent Daniel Holcomb stated that, based on his training and experience, Song's wire transfer activities were consistent with "smurfing."

Smurfing, he explained, is an attempt to conduct multiple wire transfers of money under $10,000 to avoid mandatory federal currency transaction reporting requirements.

"Smurfing is a common method used by drug traffickers to smuggle drug trafficking proceeds out of the United States," Holcomb said.

Song was arrested last week after a police's check on him for driving without a seatbelt yielded 176.6 grams of "ice"—the second biggest haul of such illegal drugs so far in the CNMI.

Song, an employee of Rifu Garment Factory in San Vicente, is facing charges of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance in federal court.

The defendant apparently told authorities that he just picked up the package under the bench of a bus stop—as directed by his friend, a person named Chen based in China.

Holcomb said that when he searched Song's wallet, he found two Western Union receipts dated Sept. 9 and 10, 2008, and several hundred dollars.

Both receipts, Holcomb said, indicated that the garment worker wired $5,000 to China on each day.

The defendant told authorities he sent the money to his parents-in-law in China.

Song claimed he won the money in two separate days at two different poker arcades.

Holcomb, however, noted that, according to the Department of Finance, the maximum payout in most poker machines on Saipan is capped at $1,000.

The agent said other officers also located a small, black Chinese-English dictionary in the center console of Song's Toyota Corolla car.

He said when they opened the dictionary, they noticed that the pages inside had been hollowed out in a rectangular shape equivalent to the size of the packages of "ice" found inside a bag in the car.

In addition, officers recovered a partially empty water bottle in the center console.

Holcomb said "ice" traffickers frequently carry partially empty water bottles near their drugs, so they can dump the drugs inside the water bottle before law enforcers could discover it.

MAFEA to induct its new 2008 officers on Sept. 27

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTERS

Officers of the Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects for year 2008 will be inducted this coming Saturday, Sept 27, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

The group held a luncheon meeting yesterday at the Miggy's Restaurant along Middle Road in Garapan, where they finalized the program of activities for the induction ceremonies.

The induction program will be from 6pm to 10 pm.

Invited guests will include Martin Sablan from the Department of Public Works, Philippine Consul General Wilfredo D.L. Maximo and Joan L. Lavilla of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office.

They have also invited Gov. Benigno Fitial but they're not sure if he could make it because of other important commitments. They're still hoping, though, that the governor could grace the occasion.

Established in 1995, MAFEA has some 75 members in the CNMI.

One of their plans for this year is to build a project—possibly a pavilion—that would benefit not only their members but the whole CNMI community. They said they want it to be something memorable and permanent.

The group elected their new set of officers about two months ago in July. The new officers shall have a term of one year.

Norberto 'Bong' De Guzman was elected President, Hector Sevilla (Internal Vice President), Ruel Magtalas (External Vice President), Carlito J. Marquez (Secretary), Joseph 'Jun' Liberato (Treasurer), Dominador Aquino (Auditor), Eric Tabanda (Public Relations Officer), and Fernando Fortades (Business Manager).

The members of the Board of Directors are Henry Bautista (Chairman), Noli Villacrusis, Andrew Mesina, Randy Jacob, Joseph Hornilla, Roger Talapan, Rommel Crisostomo, and Ismael Cuenco.

The group's advisers include Tito Villapando, Toots Lumactod, Cecilio de la Cruz Jr., Geoffrey Melchor, Tim Paez, Nelson Degala, Renato Abarquez, Emmanuel Po, Eddie Caranzo, Ruel Villacrusis, and Edgardo Reyes.

Reform stalled in Tonga parliament

NUKU-ALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—Tonga's political reform process is currently in a limbo until commissioners are appointed and parliament has agreed on a few issues, the Prime Minister Dr. Feleti Sevele confirmed while answering questions at a Press Conference in Nuku-alofa.

The joint Press Conference with the New Zealand High Commissioner to Tonga, Christine Bogle and a representative of the Australia government was to outline highlights of a two-day Donor High Level Consultation between the governments of Tonga, New Zealand and Australia on the development cooperation programs with Tonga. The Asian Development Bank was also represented at the meeting as an observer.

Sevele praised the Australian and the New Zealand governments for their financial assistance to Tonga.

New Zealand bilateral assistance to Tonga has increased from NZ$4.6 million [US$3 million] in 2004 to 2005 to NZ$13.3 million [US$9 million] in 2008 to 2009. The Australian bilateral assistance to Tonga has also increased from AUD$9.6 to AUD$13.2 million over the same period.

The press conference was an opportunity to ask the Prime Minister about the commission, which has been entrusted with the task of producing the blue print of a new system of Government for Tonga before 2010.

United States
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Council on Developmental Disabilities
Call for Special Meeting

Attention General Public:

We the undersigned members, composing of a majority of the membership of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities are hereby calling for a Special Meeting to take place on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 9 am in the NMPASI Conference Room. The meeting is called upon based on the Council on Developmental Disabilities Bylaws (dated June 11, 2007 and January 31, 2003)

Agenda:

I. Welcoming Remarks
II. Roll Call
III. Establishment of Quorum
IV. Executive Session
V. Open Session
VI. Next Meeting
VII. Closure

Dutifully Authorized and Approved by:

Roger Atac, Marissa Guerrero, James Reyphand, Suzanne Lizama, Margarita Olopai-Taitano 9/10/08, David Attao, Edith Deleon Guerrero, Derek Buenas, Cynthia Attao, Howard Macaranas, Jolinda Aquino, Helen Sablan

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BEH

From Page 1

Alex Gorman, legal counsel for the Department of Public Health, said BEH informed the Public School System that re-inspections would begin Monday.

"At that time, the schools will be given applications for permits to be completed and returned to BEH," he said in an e-mail. "PSS is being accommodating and cooperating fully. We expect it to be a straightforward process."

Last week, BEH manager John Tagabuel said the agency failed to issue permits to 22 public schools.

Under the Commonwealth Environmental Health and Sanitation Act of 2000, a health inspector must visit all schools—public or private, kindergarten through college—and declare the school sanitary before the school is allowed to purchase a permit. Permits are renewed annually.

During inspections, BEH will check for water supply adequacy in quantity and quality; sewage and waste disposal; cleanliness of the facility and premises; protection of equipment and other materials from dirt and contamination; maintenance of equipment; restroom facilities; control and exclusion of insects and rodents; and infectious disease control.

Establishments that do not comply receive a verbal warning or letter, a late penalty fee, and if corrections are not made, a recommendation to the Secretary of Public Health for closure.

BEH did not follow up or enforce the law with school management, although schools are regularly inspected once or twice a year, Tagabuel said.

The issue came to light when Gov. Benigno Fitial asked the Department of Public Health to create a task force that would check the preparedness of the public schools during the island's extended power outages.

The night before the first day of classes, Fitial signed an executive order delaying the start of four schools—Marianas High School, Kagman Elementary, Oleai Head Start and Koblerville Elementary—after water quality test results were not processed in time for the first day.

Under normal circumstances, BEH can recommend to the Secretary of Public Health to close an establishment, but because there were no permits, the Department of Public Health recommended Fitial use his authority to delay the opening.

Last week, Tagabuel said the situation would be corrected and permits would be distributed.

"I'm not a betting man. However, Sanitary Permit application along with [the] inspection report will be issue[d] to school administrators from this day forward on [an] annual basis," he said at the time.

Both PSS Education Commissioner Rita Sablan and PSS Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita said they were unaware of the lack of permits.

CHIEF

From Page 1

islands were destroyed by a typhoon. He asked the governor of Guam if he could resettle his people on the island of Saipan, starting the Carolinian population in the CNMI.

Gov. Benigno Fitial and Washington Representative Pete Tenorio were in attendance at the event, organized by the Carolinians Affairs Office and Chief Aghurubw Foundation, Inc.

Fr. Nonoy Recaido led a Mass before attendees ate a variety of local foods.

During the program, Recaido called on the younger generation of Carolinians to remember their culture and not let it fade away.

"We're so much preoccupied with new technologies, we leave out or forget or try to forget out culture," he said.

Younger Carolinians need to listen to the *man'amko* in order to carry on the traditions, he said.

"From them you learn something and that learning will remain in your mind and heart… Some day the *man'amko* will pass, don't let the culture and tradition of your people pass with them," he said.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundred of Carolinian and other community members attend the Mass for the 39th Annual Chief Aghurubw commemoration on the island of Managaha yesterday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Fr. Nonoy raises the chalice during the commemoration Mass.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Children look at the monument of Chief Aghurubw during the commemoration of the 39th Annual Chief Aghurubw on the island of Managaha yesterday.

Fitial said he appreciated the expression of love for the Carolinian people and Chief Aghurubw before ending the program with a brief speech in Carolinian.

Celine Romolor-Route, who has attended the ceremony for several years, said the event is an important way to bring the Carolinian community together. It's a good way for the children to become exposed to their culture, she added.

"The number one reason is to maintain and preserve our culture and values," she said.

Romolor-Route said she was pleased the weather cleared up before the ceremony and many Carolinians turned out for the event.

Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong, a member of the Chief Aghurubw Foundation, said the commemoration is a signature event for the Carolinians because it reminds the community of Chief Aghurubw's contribution to their history.

"He's considered a great chief. He's one of the first that arrived," he said.

Chief Aghurubw lies buried on Managaha Island and an inscription in a monument dedicated to the navigator reads: "The monument stands in honor of the chief who changed the course of history in the lives of the people and who gave of himself to shape their destiny."

OVER

From Page 1

three shots to complete the vaccination process.

Sablan said she was satisfied with the numbers because many of the girls who were not vaccinated left the islands for other reasons.

The campaign targeted high schools so they could be immunized before they graduated, Sablan said.

"Once they graduate, you can't capture them," she added.

This year the campaign will focus on sixth graders. Sablan said she would like to vaccinate at least 95 percent of the girls.

There was some controversy to the program, including religious barriers, she said. Some opponents say dispensing the HPV vaccine encourages girls to have sex rather than preventing premarital sex.

"Since it's got to do with sex, parents are sometimes hesitant," she said, adding that the CNMI being predominantly Catholic fuels the controversy.

But once parents learned more about the program, they were more receptive, Sablan said.

"There are always parents who are concerned and protective," she said. "We do understand where they're coming from. The only thing we can do is answer questions and let them decide what to do with it."

"It is not a required shot, compared to measles, mumps or rubella," she added. "It is a preventative measure that has a lot of controversy. We highly recommend it to reduce the number of cervical cancer cases. We encourage parents to talk openly with their kids."

She said that every seven weeks a woman in the CNMI is diagnosed with cervical cancer.

"We're seeing a lot of woman dying and it's sad to know prevention was available," she added.

Earlier this year, Sablan was asked to speak about the success of the CNMI's program at the National Immunization Conference in Atlanta. The first vaccination will begin around late October.

LOOKING

From Page 1

himself when he rises for his walks so that he won't damage his incision and playing videotapes that show him how to dress the wound to prevent infection and how to use a breathing device so that he won't get pneumonia. The Virginia hospital introduced the education program after Dimmick and other nurses discovered an unusually high readmission rate for heart patients.

Like hospitals around the country, Inova is grappling with a nursing shortage that is projected to worsen over the next two decades. Hospitals increasingly are responding with a new recruitment and retention strategy—giving nurses like Dimmick much more say in their patients' care.

Five years ago, hospitals waged intense bidding wars to fill nursing vacancies, luring nurses with huge signing bonuses and even sport-utility vehicles and vacations to the Bahamas. Those efforts often only served to exacerbate turnover, spurring nurses to remain in jobs just long enough to claim the prizes before moving to other hospitals with better incentives.

As it turns out, many nurses want better working conditions more than they do extra money. Hospitals now are responding by introducing technology to dramatically reduce paperwork, offering more flexible hours, reducing caseloads, paying for advanced training and giving them more authority.

"Autonomy is a big thing," said Dimmick, who has been at the hospital for 7 1/2 years. "It's important for me to know that what I do matters."

Inova Fairfax recently introduced a state-of-the-art data system—consisting of video monitors and other equipment that track the vital signs of intensive care patients—to reduce the amount of time nurses spend filling out paperwork. It also has established a concierge that offers such services as dry cleaning, movie tickets and car detailing for busy nurses trying to juggle their professional and personal lives.

Inova is part of a nationwide movement. These days, nurses at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics in Kansas City, Mo., for instance, set their own schedule and have a say in what type of equipment should be purchased and whether patient-staff ratios need to be adjusted.

"Having the option to voice an opinion is amazing," said Jana Schlosser, a nursing education coordinator at the Kansas City hospital.

Hundreds of hospitals are spending millions of dollars to retool their practices, experts say, because of the high expense in losing nurses.

"It costs $50,000 to $100,000 to replace one nurse—and that's not counting salary," said Pat Rutherford, vice president of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, a nonprofit organization based in Cambridge, Mass. The money, she said, is spent on overtime payments and temps to cover the position, as well as recruiting and training for a permanent replacement.

The number of open nursing jobs nationwide reached 116,000 in 2007. The vacancy rate has dipped slightly; for now, the dismal economy is providing some respite as nurses take on more work to make up for income lost by others in their households who were laid off.

But hospitals are bracing for 2025 when retirements and other factors are projected to push the number of open jobs to as many as 1 million, just when Baby Boomers will require more nursing care.

"We're in a big, big world of hurt coming up," said Peter I. Buerhaus, director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies at Vanderbilt University. Buerhaus said having fewer nurses would seriously compromise hospital care, putting patients at greater risk for pneumonia, falls, bed sores and infections. "This would be lights out for many (hospital) organizations."

More than 150 hospitals have launched pilot projects under the Institute of Healthcare Improvement, which works with such facilities to enhance patient care and nurse retention. And about 300 have become certified under the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Recognition Program. The credentialing center's program is awarded to hospitals deemed to be "magnets for nurses" for introducing more training programs and mechanisms for nurses to have a greater say in patient care.

Experts say the hospitals' investments are paying off.

"We're able to show that nurse satisfaction is significantly higher in magnet hospitals than in matching hospitals" that don't have the status, said Linda H. Aiken, director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania.

With a higher proportion of nurses with bachelor's and master's degrees, Aiken added, "magnets have significantly lower mortality rates than other hospitals." Moreover, she said, patients at magnet hospitals have fewer complications, keeping pharmaceutical and diagnostic costs low.

In America's shadow, paradise found

By STEVE BERGSMAN
BARRONS.COM

There's no doubt about it: A villa in Naples, Italy, offers a more exotic retirement than a condo in Naples, Fla. And who wouldn't prefer an oceanfront home in Roatan, Honduras, to a time-share on the Jersey shore? But if you really want a bargain on exotica under the U.S. flag, go west—very west—to American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, all in the far Pacific.

With the exception of American Samoa, these are "organized territories," in that the U.S. Constitution applies to all local governments and inhabitants, just as it would in the 50 States. American Samoa is an "unorganized territory," which means Congress determines which parts of the Constitution apply to the local government and citizens.

The U.S. has political sovereignty over American Samoa, located in the South Pacific, and Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. These latter two are both part of the Mariana chain, which is so far west of Hawaii that it's almost due south of Tokyo.

GUAM

The Tumon Bay area of Guam looks like a mini-Waikiki, with a line of high-rise hotels (Westin, Hilton, Marriott, Nikko, etc.) along the beach. However, since most of the tourists come from Japan, every sign is in English and Japanese.

Like Hawaii, Guam's economy also gets a big lift from the American military. Last year, Washington announced it is committing $15 billion over a decade to build up the island's infrastructure.

As a resort island, Guam historically has depended on the vicissitudes of the Japanese economy. When that country's economy flourished in the 1980s, so did Guam. When it nosedived a decade later, Guam's real-estate market dropped off a cliff. Raw land that once sold as high as $1,500 a square meter fell to $250 to $300.

But the market is clearly on the mend, thanks in no small part to Uncle Sam's plans to station some 8,000 marines in Guam. Real estate began to make a comeback in 2006, and 2007 was a record year, with almost $700 billion in sales, says Nick Captain, president and owner of The Captain Co. in Hagatna, Guam. The median price of a home has doubled since 2003, to $205,000, he says. A 2,000-square-foot house by the water sells for about $600,000, about 40 percent less than in the Virgin Islands.

Guam is also much cheaper than Hawaii, and not as isolated as you might think. Though it is seven hours from Hawaii, good short-haul airlines make it easy to reach Japan, the Philippines or China. The big worry in Guam is weather; the island sits in the western Pacific's typhoon zone. In the past decade, it's been hit by two super-typhoons.

One hears a lot about bugs and dangerous reptiles in Guam. Termites definitely can be a problem, but the hype about the brown tree snake, which supposedly has overrun the island, is definitely overblown.

NORTHERN MARIANAS

The inhabitants of Guam's neighbor to the north, the island of Saipan in the Northern Marianas, should only have to worry about typhoons and bugs. A resort locale for the Japanese, Saipan has been ravaged by everything but the Biblical plagues. The Northern Marianas have suffered the loss of airline flights to Japan, a collapsed economy, a weak government and allegations of international money laundering.

Result: Real estate is so thoroughly deflated that Saipan is probably the cheapest property market under the U.S. flag. In 2007, land and built-out property was selling at about 10 cents on the dollar. The 310-room Nikko Hotel, once one of the major resorts on the island, was sold recently for $3 million, says Roy Alexander, president of Alexander Realty & Development in Saipan, who adds: "The owners gave it away."

As for residential real estate, Alexander says, "I did a deal this year with a foreigner who bought an acre of land with an ocean view for $135,000." Try getting that in Malibu or Palm Beach.

But there's one big snag: You can't actually buy property in the Northern Marianas. Instead, you lease it, sometimes for as long as 55 years. According to the island's constitution, only descendents of native Mariana Islands peoples can own land. This law may be loosened in 2012; at a minimum, lease lengths may be extended to 75 years.

The legal hurdles are well worth jumping, for Guam and Saipan are beautiful islands with endless beaches, lush lagoons, mountainous interiors and wondrous reefs for diving. U.S. history buffs also will find plenty to like: The World War II battles in this part of the Pacific were lengthy and particularly brutal and, to this day, especially on Saipan, many vestiges of the war are evident on the islands.

AMERICAN SAMOA

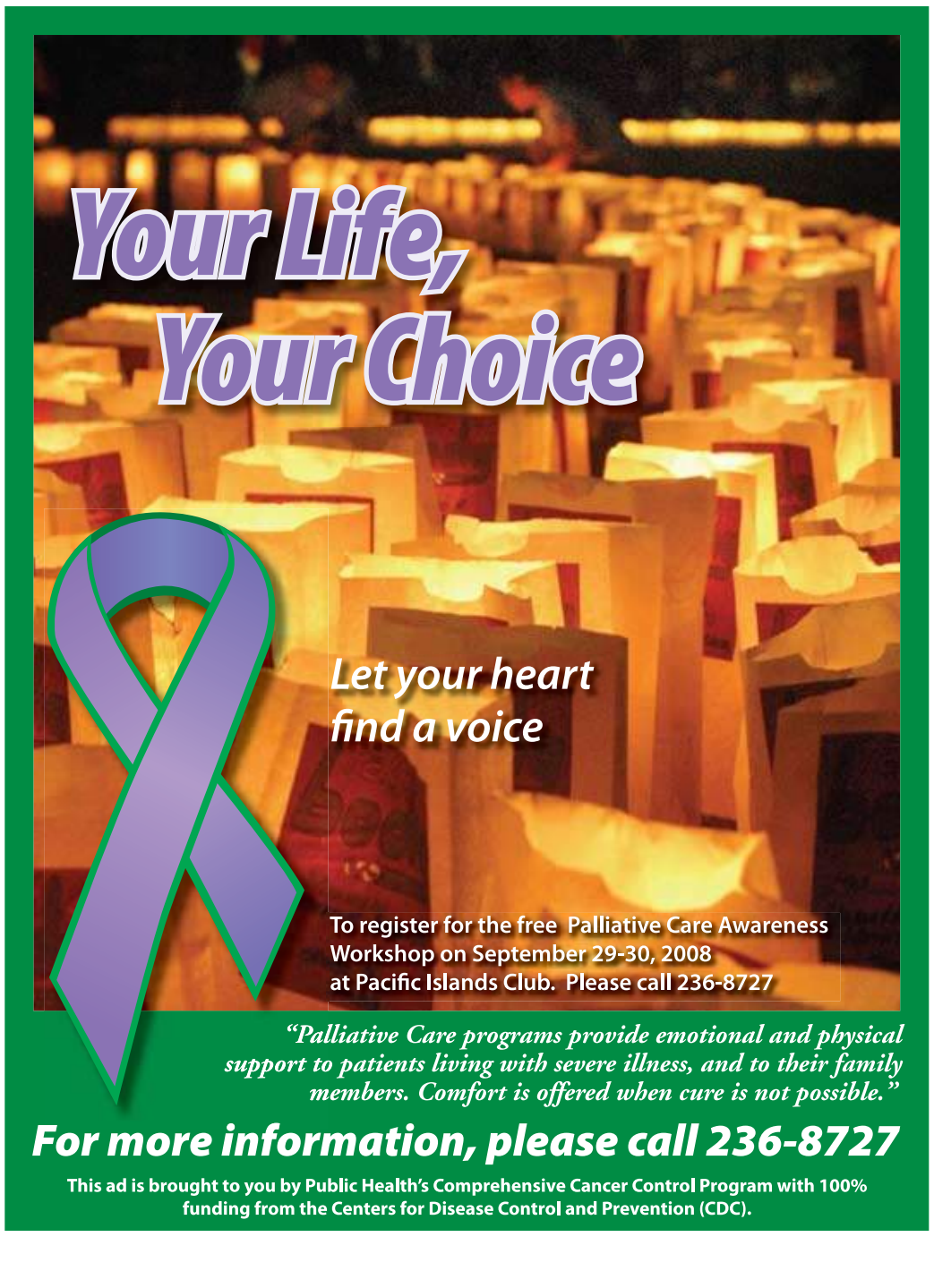
Perhaps the prettiest of all U.S. island territories is American Samoa, a deeply forested, tropical speck of land in the South Pacific, east of Fiji and west of French Polynesia. As with Guam and Saipan, to reach it you head to Honolulu and then take a plane from there. The flights, all done overnight, take five hours.

American Samoa is the least developed of the territories because, as on Saipan, buying property there isn't easy. Only about 10 percent of the land is privately owned; the rest is communal family land. American Samoa's law generally prohibits the transfer of land ownership to anyone who is less than one-half Samoan. But, it is possible to lease communal land, and the lease can be extended to 55 years, with an option to renew. Not surprisingly, properties don't change hands very often on the island.

"About three years ago, a client of mine sold two acres of absolutely stunning beachfront property for $350,000," says Henry Kappel, an attorney who is now a legislative counsel on the island. He uses his own home as a benchmark for property prices. The 1,800-square-foot house sits on a nice half-acre lot with just about every kind of exotic fruit tree imaginable—mango, papaya, banana, pineapple and more—and it was appraised at just $285,000.

Talk about a tasty bargain.

Steve Bergsman is a frequent contributor to Barron's. His newest book is Passport to Exotic Real Estate.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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

AIG's ace

Here's a riddle for you: How did a flailing American International Group persuade the Federal Reserve to throw it a lifeline two days after the feds snubbed a sinking Lehman Bros.? Answer: by failing on a much, much grander scale.

Both companies were big players in the market for credit default swaps, an unregulated form of private insurance that guards companies against loss when an investment goes bad. But AIG sold more swaps to more banks and investment companies than Lehman did. These extensive entanglements led the Fed to worry that a sudden AIG bankruptcy could drag down much of the financial industry.

Unfortunately, the message to Wall Street seems to be that doing business with a really big firm is virtually risk free, thanks to the likelihood of a federal bailout. The rescue isn't helping AIG shareholders—the stock is worth about $2 a share, down more than 90 percent from a month ago. But by keeping AIG afloat with an $85-billion loan, the Fed provided a crucial respite for the companies that bought swaps from AIG, along with the company's bondholders.

It's worth remembering that AIG, the world's largest insurance company, didn't get in trouble for covering risky drivers or storm-damaged homes. State insurance commissioners say that the consumer insurance subsidiaries of AIG were in good shape, and policyholders wouldn't have been hurt even if the parent company had gone belly up. The company's turmoil was caused by the guarantees it provided for risky mortgage-related securities. Sound familiar? Those securities triggered the fall of Bear Stearns and Lehman Bros. too. And thanks to the Fed's bailout, the banks and investment companies that actually held those securities won't have to raise cash suddenly to offset a precipitous drop in their investments' value.

Those companies are the real beneficiaries of the Fed's rescue. It's clear that a collapse by AIG would have taken a toll throughout the industry, which could have forced a scramble for capital that would tighten credit markets. And that, in turn, might have made it harder for many companies to obtain the money they need to run their businesses. How many more companies would have toppled? Policymakers couldn't predict and didn't want to find out.

Before such interventions become habit-forming, there need to be more safeguards -- not for investors but for taxpayers. We're all for unfettered financial innovation, as long as the industry has a mechanism to limit systemic threats without the central bank's help. That's not the case today, obviously. As we said after Lehman sank, the federal government needs better tools to ensure that companies like AIG can't threaten the entire system when they put themselves at risk.

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Off on the great schlep

By JOEL STEIN
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Stein is a columnist for the Times.

If you need proof that this is the most important election in a generation, get this: Jewish grandkids are flying to Florida to visit their grandparents—without being guilted into it—to talk their elders out of voting for John McCain.

The Jewish Council for Education and Research—a new pro-Obama political action committee—is organizing "The Great Schlep," in which hundreds of Jews will make the Southern exodus on Columbus Day weekend, Oct. 10-13. They will travel to the Fort Lauderdale area, where they will visit their grandparents, organize political salons in their condos and eat incredibly bad food. The grandkids also will meet up at a bar one night, which—if the psychological impact of spending a few days with frail, elderly, widowed relatives is taken fully into account—may do more to repopulate the world's Jews than the creation of Israel.

More than hockey moms or gun-toting God lovers, old Floridian Jews are the most important demographic in this election. They make up about 5 percent of the voters in a swing state with 27 electoral college votes. They never miss so much as a condo board vote and are normally reliable Democrats.

Barack Obama's trouble winning over older Jewish voters has been difficult for pollsters to explain, so I came here this week to visit my grandmother, Mama Ann, and find out what the hang-up is. After a long discussion about policy, I asked her if the reason she was leaning toward voting for McCain was because Obama is black. She assured me that it was not. Although during dinner, she did casually mention that her grandfather used to express a superstition that if you ate marrow, you'd date a black man. I had no idea that for so many generations, Jews have hated marrow.

Mama Ann thought the three days of the Great Schlep would be very effective. "Oh boy, the grandparents will start cooking three days ahead," she said, making me worry that many Schleppers won't last through three days of canned pineapple and dry chicken. "If they see their grandchildren, they'll go along. They just need more assurance on Israel." Israel, Mama Ann explained, is the key issue her condo friends vote on. When McCain sings about bombing Iran, he is singing a sweet serenade to Florida's electoral collegians.

To persuade Mama Ann to vote for Obama, I used many of the talking points suggested to me by Great Schlep organizer Mik Moore. These included the fact that Obama went to Columbia and Harvard, and McCain got bad grades in college; that Obama has been criticized by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and that Obama ran the business side of his campaign better than any other candidate. I did not know that I could be so racially offended by my own people.

After convincing Mama Ann not to vote for McCain, I then had to persuade her not to write in Hillary Clinton, who the old Jews here love for her feisty, scrappy Estelle Getty-ness.

Feeling confident, I headed down to the condo Hadassah meeting, where I asked some people who they were voting for. A few had Obama buttons in Hebrew. One wanted to tell me how Lyndon Johnson helped the Jews more than people know. Seven wanted to set me up with their granddaughters despite the fact that I was wearing my wedding ring.

But many more were sure Obama was Muslim and that extremist Arabs "had his ear." I strongly urge Obama to take one day off campaigning and go to a courthouse to legally change his middle name from "Hussein" to "Seriously, People, I'm Not a Muslim."

Having tackled the Hadassah meeting, I drove over to Palm Beach with Mama Ann to talk to her first cousin, Rochelle Bramsen. When Rochelle's daughter and son-in-law, whom she lives with, argued for Obama, she bristled. I joined in, and asked—as suggested by the talking points—if she inaccurately thought Obama was a Muslim. Both Aunt Rochelle and Mama Ann said yes, they thought he was. When we all tired of arguing about that, I asked if it would be such a big deal if Obama were a Muslim. This was, I quickly realized, not on the list of recommended talking points for good reason.

"For me, personally, that would be an issue," said Rochelle.

Thinking we'd trapped her in a rhetorical corner, her kids and I asked why Muslims in office would be worse than Christians. To which Rochelle deftly responded, "Who says I'm OK with Christians?"

Rochelle also was upset that Obama didn't wear an American flag lapel pin at first. I asked Rochelle if she wore a flag pin. "No, but I expect more from our leaders," she said. I am pretty sure Rochelle just doesn't trust anyone who doesn't wear at least some jewelry.

Still, by the end of our discussion, Rochelle seemed to have joined Mama Ann as an Obama supporter. But there's a fair chance that by Columbus Day, both Mama Ann and Aunt Rochelle will have forgotten that.

So it's important that other grandchildren—hopefully some who are vaguely my age and shape—fly down here for the Great Schlep salons. Even if they fail, they won't be sorry: I saw a movie for $3.50, had dinner for $10 and was treated like whatever the Jewish equivalent of a saint is by everyone in the condo complex just for stopping by. I say we do this every Columbus Day. Next year, hopefully, we'll be hanging poolside with retiree John McCain.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Wall Street's just deserts

By HAROLD MEYERSON
Special to The Washington Post

Meyerson is editor-at-large of American Prospect and the L.A. Weekly.

At the risk of speaking ill of the dead, what good was Lehman Brothers, anyway? And if Merrill Lynch was so bullish on America, why is it that, despite the torrent of foreign investment that flowed in to Lehman, Merrill and their Wall Street peers over the past half-decade, so few jobs were created in America during that period of "recovery"?

During the late, lamented Wall Street boom, America's leading investment institutions were plenty bullish on China's economy, on exotic financial devices built atop millions of bad loans, and, above all—judging by the unprecedented amount of wealth they showered on the Street—on themselves. The last thing our financial community was bullish on was America—that is, the America where the vast majority of Americans live and work.

Over the past eight years, the U.S. economy has created just 5 million new jobs, a number that is falling daily. The median income of American households has declined. Airports, bridges and roads are decaying. Rural wind-power facilities cannot light cities because our electrical grid has not been expanded. New Orleans has not been rebuilt. And as productive activity within the United States has ceased to be the prime target of investment, household consumption—more commonly known as shopping—has come to comprise more than 70 percent of our economy.

The banks' underinvestment in America was hardly due to a lack of capital. But even as petrodollars and China's dollars poured into Wall Street, the investment houses directed trillions into new and ever more dubious credit instruments, which yielded massive profits for Wall Streeters and their highflying investors, and put chump change into efforts to improve, to take just one example, American transportation.

It was not ever thus on Wall Street. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, bankers such as August Belmont and J.P. Morgan invested European capital in American railroads and steel. Moreover, by the 1830s, a major political party, the Whigs, had arisen on a platform of "internal improvements"—fast-forwarding the nation's development through a public commitment to building roads, rails and canals. Their successor party, the Republicans, continued these commitments, as Lincoln's support for the transcontinental railroad and land-grant colleges makes clear.

By the mid-20th century, the behemoths of American manufacturing reinvested their own resources to meet most of their capital needs, while New Deal-era and subsequent administrations (including that of Republican Dwight Eisenhower) invested heavily in the nation's infrastructure. Wall Street played a diminished role during the golden years of mass American prosperity but came roaring back beginning with the financial deregulation of the Reagan era.

Finance set the terms of corporate behavior over the past quarter-century, and not in ways that bolstered the economy. By its actions—elevating shareholder value over the interests of other corporate stakeholders, focusing on short-term investments rather than patient capital, pressuring corporations to offshore jobs and cut wages and benefits—Wall Street plainly preferred to fund production abroad and consumption at home. The internal investment strategy of 100 years ago was turned on its head. Where Morgan once funneled European capital into American production, for the past decade Morgan's successors have directed Asian capital into devices to enable Americans to take on more debt to buy Asian products.

Worse yet, as Wall Street turned its back on America, so did government. The Bush administration and congressional Republicans (John McCain among them) kept American incomes low by opposing hikes in the minimum wage; helping employers defeat unionization; and shunning policies to modernize infrastructure, make college more affordable, and boost spending on basic science and research.

Today, it's the Democrats who sound like Lincoln's Republicans. In recent months, the Obama campaign and liberal think tanks in particular have generated numerous proposals for heightened public commitment to infrastructure and education. Unlike tax cuts, which chiefly bolster our ability to consume imported goods and commodities, infrastructure investments make us more productive and have a multiplier effect that creates more jobs over and above those that the government funds directly. Congressional Democrats have included major infrastructure investments in their pending new stimulus bill, which Bush and GOP leaders oppose.

Someone needs to invest in the United States of America. For the past decade and, in a broader sense, for the entire duration of the Reagan era, both government and Wall Street have opted not to. Should Barack Obama win, the era of neglectful government will probably come to an end. No matter who wins, Wall Street is vanishing before our eyes. And by the measure of their contribution to America's economic strength and well being, both Reagan-age government and Wall Street's investment banks plainly deserve to die.

For a bailout, press 'one' ...

By ALAN NEFF
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

"Hello! You've reached the United States Treasury's automated bailout hotline. Please listen carefully, because our options have recently changed. If you're too big to fail, press or say 'one.' If not, hang up and dial 1-800-FOR-FEMA.'"

"One."

"Great! You've selected Option One. If you're a bank, press or say 'one.' If you're a brokerage firm, press or say 'two.' If you're an insurance company, press or say 'three.'"

"Three."

"You've selected Option Three, which means you're an insurance firm. Did I get that right?"

"Yes."

"Okay, let's drill down a little further. If you're calling because you're besieged by class-action lawsuits brought by take-no-prisoners plaintiffs' attorneys because your large corporate policyholders committed innumerable mass toxic torts, press or say 'one.' If you're calling because you insured billions of dollars' worth of undocumented, nonperforming mortgages, press or say 'two.'"

"Two. No, wait, one. I mean, uh, both."

"I'm sorry. I didn't understand. Let's try something else. If you're the CEO of an insurance company with a servile compensation committee that gave you an irrevocable golden parachute, press or say 'one.' If you've served on corporate boards with Henry Paulson, press or say 'two.' If you believe in strict market Darwinism for every company but yours, press or say 'three.'"

"Three."

"If you want your check automatically deposited into your company's bank account, press or say 'one.' If you want cash in small, unmarked, used, nonsequential bills delivered to a branch office in Zurich or the Cayman Islands, press or say 'two.'"

(Silence. Thinking. Surge of fiduciary energy.)

"One."

"Okay. Please enter the amount you want using the number keys. Use the star sign for a decimal point and press pound when you've finished."

(Lengthy series of numbers entered, followed by the pound sign.)

"Wow! You are in trouble! Your funds should clear in three business days. When you have another claim, call back. Thank you for calling, and have a great day!"

Alan Neff is a lawyer and novelist. He lives in Chicago.

What the candidates can do

By R. GLENN HUBBARD
Special to The Washington Post

Hubbard, who was chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers from 2001 to 2003, is dean of Columbia University's Graduate School of Business.

There are 45 days until the election. This is not a time for silence or slogans. While the presidential candidates' policy positions are evolving, it's reasonable to hope that they can agree on key steps to create a firebreak for our financial crisis. They should start by calling for a structural fix for the near-term crisis and regulatory improvements to keep it from being repeated.

The Treasury and the Federal Reserve have been aggressive about injecting liquidity into the U.S. and global financial systems. But their actions—intended to limit a vicious cycle of asset fire sales in a scramble for liquidity by individual firms—are not without consequences. With the government's "conservatorship" of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and its rescue of insurance giant AIG this week, there is now substantial credit risk on the Fed's balance sheet that will be borne by taxpayers.

The Treasury and the Fed should not ignore systemic risk just to limit moral hazard, but this firefighting has still left us with problems: Additional write-downs are coming. We cannot and should not try to protect every institution.

Now, consider the candidates' economic philosophies. John McCain champions openness, low taxes and efficient regulation. Barack Obama is more skeptical of gains from trade and global finance, and he favors tax increases on capital and a variety of regulatory solutions. In this environment, these differences are revealing (and the advantage goes to McCain).

First, it is clear that openness to foreign investment in U.S. firms and economic opportunity for financial services outside the United States will help to resolve many financial institutions' problems. Second, rebuilding the internal net worth and capital of major financial institutions is essential to relieving credit stresses. Taxes on savings—including dividend, capital gains and corporate taxes—are at least partly capitalized in the value of existing assets. Raising capital taxes—undesirable economic policy at any time—would also raise macroeconomic concerns for righting Wall Street's ship. Clarity about the extension of the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts, which bolster collateral values, along with a corporate tax cut, would yield a potent tonic. Third, the financial meltdown that engulfed Lehman and AIG, and policymakers' uncomfortable responses to it the past several months, clearly highlight the need for regulatory reform.

To limit the further spread of real estate woes to the broader economy, Federal Housing Administration authority for mortgage refinancing should be expanded. In addition, putting in place a cleanup agency that could absorb bad loans, modeled after the 1930s-era Home Owners' Loan Corporation or the Resolution Trust Corporation of the 1980s, would help. Taxpayer funds used to support such vehicles would offer more economic stimulus and market stabilization than temporary tax cuts or public spending.

The fiscal costs of inaction would be significant, both in lost tax receipts and in larger "crisis" bailouts down the road. We need to ensure that taxpayer support is effective and cost-efficient.

We need regulatory reform, but the problem is actually not too little regulation—both lightly and heavily regulated institutions are in trouble. We must put in place smarter regulation. Regulation itself is not blameless in the growth of high-risk mortgage lending. A key step would be to broaden capital and liquidity requirements and increase them during financial booms to push back against excessive risk taking.

Regulation of capital adequacy should require more capital to support incremental risk-taking in a boom and lower such capital requirements in a bust. With such requirements, financial institutions would find risk-taking marginally more costly in a credit boom, in which credit risk and liquidity risk are very low. In a downturn, any scramble for liquidity to meet capital requirements would be reduced.

While strong supervision would be necessary, this approach would offer a significant addition to the policy tool kit. It could be implemented by raising banks' capital requirements proportionately as risk-weighted bank assets grow. By varying capital cushions over credit cycles, the consequences of risk distortions for actual lending and borrowing decisions would be reduced, along with the likelihood of asset fire sales and extraordinary central bank liquidity provisions. Here again, there is a cost: Such provisions, while stabilizing the near-term outlook, raise important questions about the Fed's long-term independence.

Bold near-term action to address the unfolding crisis should occur parallel to longer-term action, not only in capital requirements but also in the structure of regulation and supervision. We are asking too much of the Fed, and putting a strong umbrella financial regulator alongside it should be an item for serious discussion.

Despite their policy differences, both candidates should put the country's economic well being first. They can start by calling for structural improvements to help limit the damage of the financial crisis and seek regulatory improvements to avoid its repetition.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼70
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

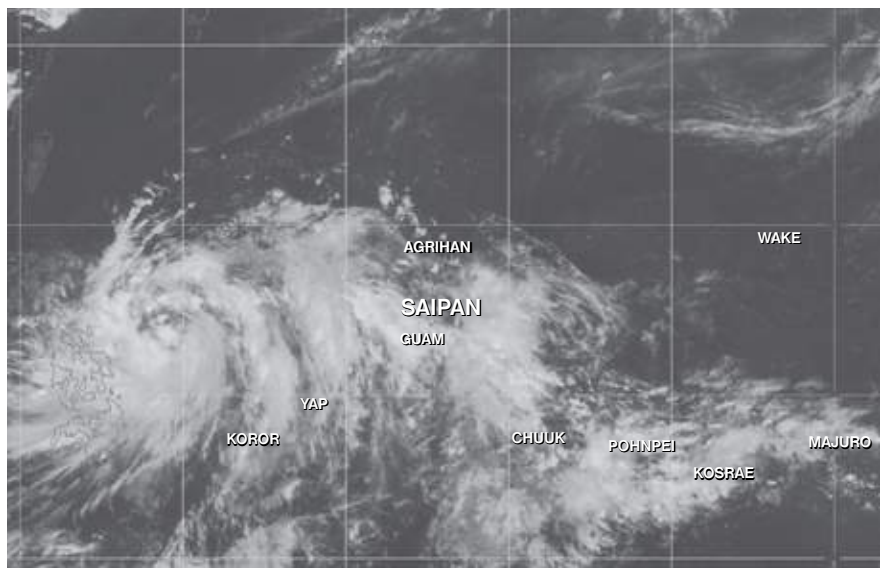
Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲62	▼54
Beijing	Showers	▲86	▼64
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲91	▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼75
London	Cloudy	▲68	▼48
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲80	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼58
Miami	Cloudy	▲88	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼58
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼67
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼50
Pusan	Cloudy	▲84	▼65
Rome	Cloudy	▲71	▼50
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲67	▼47
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲69	▼54
Seoul	Cloudy	▲89	▼63
Tokyo	Rain	▲79	▼70
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼60

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:51AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
1:11AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
6:06PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
10:57PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 2:00PM, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical storm Hagupit (18W) is centered northwest of Koror and east of the Phillipines near 13N131E. Numerous showers and thunderstorms are occurring within 225 miles of the center. Farther out scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are being produced by convergent winds into the storm from 9N to 18N and west of 141E. This includes the area just to the north and west of Koror and Yap and west of the Marianas. Closer to the Marianas a trough of low pressure is approaching from the east and is located near 150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring out ahead of the trough axis and along the island chain between 8N and 18N from 143E to 151E. A broad area of trade-wind convergence is occurring south of 10N and east of 150 and is helping to produce scattered showers and thunderstorms within 250 miles of a line from 2N148E to 7N161E narrowing to within 75 miles on either side of 8N169E to 7N180. This area is south of Chuuk and includes Pohnpei, Kosrae, Kwajelein and Majuro.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06AM	6:14 PM
Monday	6:06AM	6:13 PM
Tuesday	6:06AM	6:12 PM
Wednesday	6:06AM	6:12 PM
Thursday	6:06AM	6:11 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:57PM	11:32AM
Monday		12:35PM
Tuesday	12:00AM	1:34PM
Wednesday	1:04AM	2:27PM
Thursday	2:05AM	3:15PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday	5:30am-6:30am	
Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service,

Koblerville

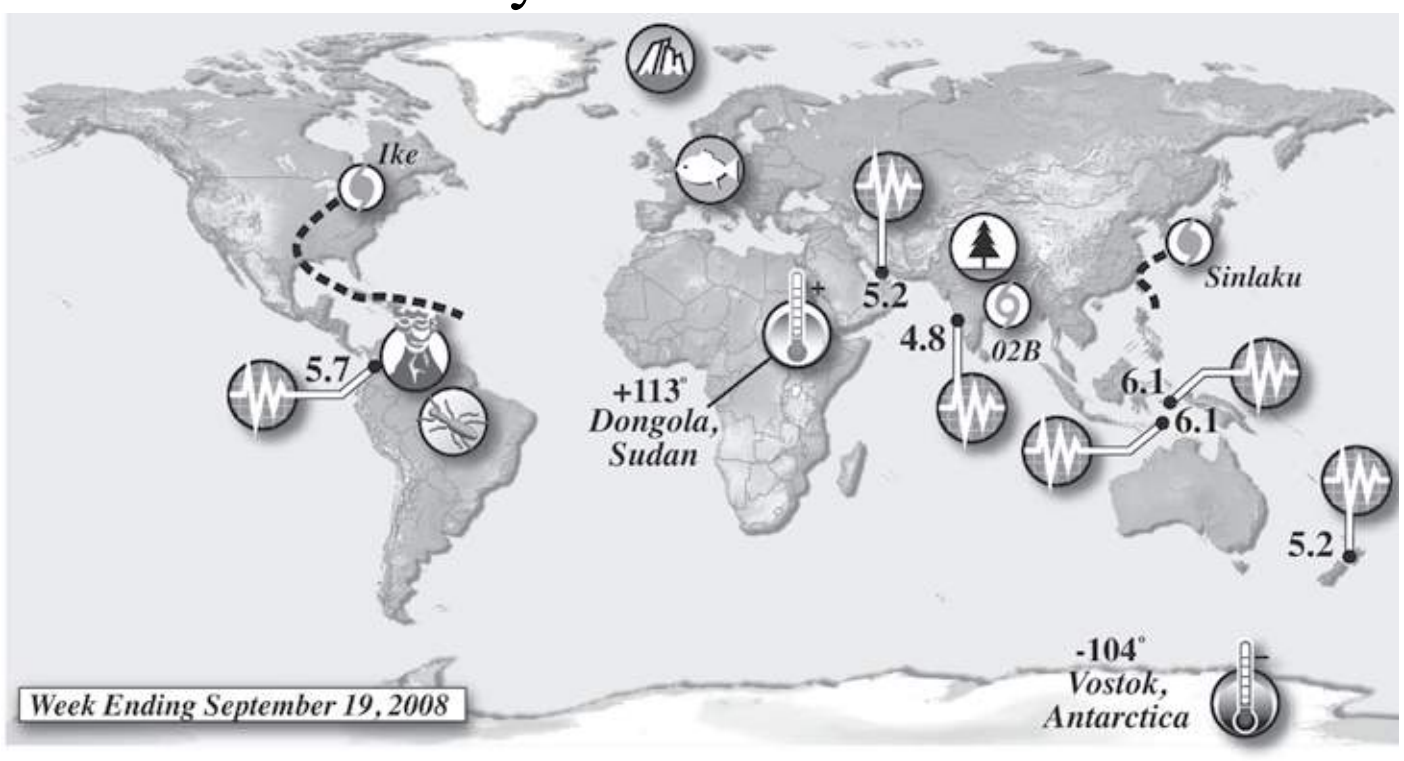
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



Near-Record Retreat

The annual melting of sea ice around the North Pole didn't quite match last year's record retreat, but this summer still produced the second-greatest melt on record. Mark Serreze, an Arctic expert at the U.S. National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colo., said the "climate feedbacks" that are kicking in could lead to a complete loss of summertime ice within about two decades. The ice reached its smallest coverage on Sept. 12, but began to refreeze a few days later when the sun's radiation became weaker as the Arctic winter began to set in. Satellite observations have revealed that the sea ice coverage has gotten smaller and smaller each summer since the 1980s. Last week, researchers announced that a navigable corridor of open water had opened up around the entire Arctic, possibly for the first time in 125,000 years.

Forest Collapse

Villagers in western Nepal's Banke district say that nearly 3,000 trees in a single forest fell over within a 10-minute period, according to a report on the eKantipur Web site. Initial reports said there were no strong winds at the time of the collapses on Sept. 8, leading to speculations that the trees were knocked down by a supernatural force. Mystified residents said that the local District Forest Office (DFO) appeared to be taking no action to determine what caused the phenomenon. But a subsequent report said that a DFO official determined that a sudden whirlwind was responsible for the collapses. Gopal Chaudhary, who said he was grazing his cattle near the forest when the trees fell, was quoted by eKantipur as also saying that a "strong gale" uprooted the trees.

Day-Glow Fish

Ichthyologists appear to have been blind for decades to a fluorescent crimson glow that naturally comes from many fish at depths where the sun's red light cannot penetrate. The fish experts had long believed that the underwater creatures probably could not even see the color red, because the sea entirely filters out that wavelength of light at depths greater than 30 feet. But researchers at the University of Tubingen in Germany accidentally saw fish glowing red when they used a filter to block out the brighter green and blue light waves, leaving only red ones. Nico Michiels and his team found at least 32 species of reef fish, glowing in various hues of ruby, rust, crimson and cherry. They say the fluorescence can only be seen at short distances, and believe it may be used for communication — possibly for mating or to signal danger.

Tropical Cyclones

Peak-season Hurricane Ike leveled homes in parts of the Texas coast and left hundreds of thousands of Houston area residents with the prospect of living without electricity for weeks. The storm killed at least 17 in Texas, and its remnants were responsible for 30 other deaths in several Midwest states.

■ Rescue officials in Taiwan said that at least 11 people were killed when Typhoon Sinlaku suddenly veered westward, striking the island instead of maintaining a predicted northerly course.

■ Tropical Cyclone 02B made landfall along India's Orissa coast with minimal storm-force winds. It was predicted to bring locally heavy rain to northern India and Nepal for several days.

Earthquakes

A strong quake near the East Timor capital of Dili caused terrified residents to flee their homes and businesses. There were no reports of significant injuries.

■ Earth movements were also felt in Indonesia's Maluku province, northern India, central New Zealand, southern Iran and western Colombia.

Colombian Rumblings

More than a hundred volcanic tremors within a 24-hour period prompted residents of Colombia's Cauca and Huila departments to abandon their homes in fear of an eruption from Nevado del Huila.

Mother of All Ants

Scientists have unearthed an ancient ancestor of ants from the soil of the Amazon rain forest that is probably the species from which all other ants evolved. University of Texas at Austin evolutionary biologist Christian Rabeling, who discovered the blind, subterranean and predatory ant, dubbed it *Martialis heureka*, or "ant from Mars," because of its alien characteristics. Genetic analysis revealed that it is of a new species, genus and subfamily — the first such ant discovery since 1923. It also appears to be from the very base of the family tree for all the world's ants. Ants evolved about 120 million years ago from wasp-like ancestors, then rapidly evolved specific characteristics to live in different environments. *Martialis heureka* has survived relatively unchanged by remaining hidden underground in a stable tropical environment, free of competition from other ants.

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OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Toilet-paper researchers create 3-ply tissue

NEENAH, Wis. (AP)—If two-ply toilet paper is good, then three-ply tissue must be better. At least that's what toilet-paper researchers in northeastern Wisconsin hope. Yes, there is such a thing as a toilet-paper researcher. And a team of them at Georgia Pacific's Innovation Institute in Neenah has come up with a three-ply version of its Quilted Northern product. The new product will be launched Monday. The company touts the toilet tissue as "ultra-soft" and says it plans to market the product to women 45 and older who view their bathroom as a "sanctuary for quality time." Industry analyst Bill Schmitz is skeptical. He said extra layers make toilet paper stronger, not softer, although he said Georgia Pacific may have added extra fibers for softness.

Thief takes $20,0000 electronic message sign

WATERBURY, Conn. (AP)—State police said somebody has made off with an electronic message sign used by the Department of Transportation to provide information to motorists on Interstate 84 in Waterbury. State police said the variable message sign along I-84 near exit 25 was reported stolen earlier this week. The sign measures 4-by-6 feet and is mounted on a two-wheel trailer. State police say it's worth about $20,000. The sign was parked on the eastbound side of the highway and it's used to notify motorists of accidents, construction news and traffic delays.

Man acquitted in Aug. accused of robbing same bank

JONESBORO, Ark. (AP)—A man acquitted a month ago of robbing a bank has been arrested in another robbery at the same bank. The man, 35, was accused of robbing Liberty Bank on Tuesday, police say. The man was acquitted Aug. 21 of robbing the bank last October after employees could not positively identify him during his trial. In another case, the man faces charges of aggravated assault and aggravated robbery in the beating of an elderly woman inside the downtown post office last fall. Police said he stole the woman's purse and her car.

Good Housekeeping

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Studio X designer Xavier Llongueras lined the indoor spa with green, blue and black mosaic tile. Travertine and mirrors were used for the deck and walls. Llongueras calls Senizergues "a businessman but an artist too."

Tricked out, wall to wall

By DAVID A. KEEPS
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

At 22, Pierre Andre Senizergues moved from the suburbs of Paris to skateboarding's Valhalla: Venice Beach. "I was living in a Ford Econoline van for the first six months," he says, adding that his next home was a surf shack where he paid $50 a month to crash behind a sofa.

That was long before Senizergues turned pro, became world champion, traveled the international circuit and founded Etnies, the footwear and apparel giant that logs $200 million in annual sales with its sister brands. Now 45, Senizergues finds himself in different shoes.

"This is the first house I ever owned," he says of his place on Newport Harbor, 35 miles southeast of Los Angeles. "I wanted it to be me."

Indeed, it is. Senizergues' home is a highly personal statement, as stunning as his signature aerial maneuvers. In a single 1948 structure, he references California beach houses, midcentury Palm Springs ranch homes, downtown lofts, Basque country residences and Moroccan hookah dens.

It's a boldly idiosyncratic update that makes any visitor wonder whether Senizergues is talking about skateboarding or decorating when he declares, "To do something new, that nobody else has, you can't be afraid to fall."

At times the house, which uses the shapes and materials of Senizergues' sport as design motifs, throws as many curves as a skate park.

As part of his bachelor padding, Senizergues worked with Studio X designer Xavier Llongueras to create a mosaic skateboard in the concrete. In the kitchen, he amped up ocean-blue, glass-tile backsplashes and concrete counters with concealed blue lights.

The meditation room is filled with Marrakech pillows on pumpkin-hued, legless leather seating, and outside Llongueras fashioned a water fountain tiled with an abstract crest of Leucate, Senizergues' native village on the southern coast of France.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Contemporary pieces that play off vintage designs include a skateboard-inspired bench.

"The idea was to take the French sensibility to the California lifestyle," Llongueras says.

The mosaic artist often works in Byzantine, Roman and Gaudi styles, so the house let him expand into a midcentury modern vibe when creating the floors of the main living spaces.

The indoor Jacuzzi is a seascape of green, blue and black tiles, a color combination that Senizergues vividly recalls from childhood boat trips. The powder room is paved in black and white pebbles. "To give you a massage when you walk on it," Senizergues purrs in a French accent.

Accented with glass mosaic inlays, the polished concrete floor downstairs was selected for function, first and foremost. "I was having so many out-of-control parties," says Senizergues, who bought the house in 1994 because its location on the harbor made it harder for cops to find him. "With 200 to 300 people, it felt like a troop of elephants had been on the original wooden floor. I got tired of cleaning it."

When he bought the house, however, it was too clean for his tastes. "All white, with mirrors and plexiglass, too 1970s," Senizergues says. "I wanted it to be contemporary without being cold and sterile."

A sandstone fireplace wall in the living room and mahogany paneling in the dining area added warmth, a modern iteration of the centuries-old stone and wood residences he grew up with in France.

Senizergues also brought home inspiration from work. Color—green in the living room, orange in the meditation room—punctuated spaces, while the concrete's gray, the favored earth tone of skateboarders, tied everything together.

The goal, he says, was to integrate the natural beauty of the area with the warmth of his homeland, the clean and classic style he saw as a young man in Paris and the ethnic souvenirs of a globe-trotting businessman.

"Skateboarders always have to reinvent themselves and their space," says longtime friend Gil Le Bon De Lapointe. "Twenty years ago, they were kids on the streets like Pierre. Now they are entrepreneurs and designers. The lifestyle is a blend of all these influences—hip-hop, grunge, street couture and urban culture."

Midcentury influence, skater sway

By DAVID A. KEEPS
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

For Gil Le Bon De Lapointe, being a skateboarder was a steppingstone to becoming a furniture designer. "You spend a lot of time choosing and using your board—checking the shape, the curves, the elasticity of the plywood," says De Lapointe, still an avid skater. "The focus you have on the equipment makes it possible for you to use that knowledge for something different."

In his case, that something is Skate Study House, a furniture design enterprise he formed with Etnies founder and former pro skateboarder Pierre Andre Senizergues.

"I'm the artist, and he has the money to do it," De Lapointe says. "Pierre gives me inspiration, he pushes me to find ideas and concepts, new ways to use the skateboard. The skateboard has given him all his success, so he wants to give that back."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The living room is seen through a room divider's skateboard-shape cutouts. Plywood skateboard decks form a bench.

The collaboration has resulted in a collection of 12 pieces, many of which bear the influence of midcentury masters. The Comet and Tokyo coffee tables owe a debt to Isamu Noguchi, and the Stax chair and God Father lounge are elongated hybrids of Charles and Ray Eames' "potato chip" LCW chair and 670 lounge chair.

The Nova lamp is composed of three skateboards joined together to form a vertical tube reminiscent of 1950s Scandinavian light fixtures, and the Skate bookshelves are made of decorative plywood decks fit together to form a grid that hangs on the wall.

"Skateboards change all the time," De Lapointe says. "There are always leftovers, so we can be a little bit sustainable. When you go to a manufacturer, they have a Dumpster full of wood and wheels. I've started being annoying to them, but if I don't take it, they'll put it in the trash."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Skateboard wheels mark the hours in an hommage to George Nelson's classic clocks.

add a window in the bathroom wall just so the bedroom TV is visible from the tub.

The three-bedroom, 2,400-square-foot house is a mosaic of styles, a combination of Senizergues' travels around the world and Llongueras' skills as a decorative tile designer.

"Pierre is very open-minded and creative," Llongueras says. "He is a businessman but an artist too, and this house reflects his personality, complexity, sophistication and great eye for color."

On the patio, which faces

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Etnies founder Pierre Andre Senizergues flips his skateboard on the front patio of his three-bedroom home, an ode to the sport that changed his life.

Home security to repel a nuke

By DIANE WEDNER
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Among the latest home-security feature offered by SAFE include a bedroom door with deadbolts galore.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

A "grenade" will emit a noxious substance intended to incapacitate an intruder.

LOS ANGELES—The thief or thieves who recently walked away with a Los Angeles couple's multi-million-dollar art collection, including a Marc Chagall and a Diego Rivera, shouldn't have had a prayer.

In a universe where wealthy people pay millions to protect jewelry, yachts, cars, Oscar statues and wine collections, experts said the real crime is that the criminals got away with the goods so easily.

"The moment the thieves entered the property, they should have been detected, documented and deterred," said Al Corbi, president of SAFE, Strategically Armored and Fortified Environments, a Los Angeles-based company that designs sophisticated security systems for clients worldwide.

That scenario might include an outdoor camera flash and a booming voice telling the intruders they've been photographed, typically a strong deterrent to burglary, Corbi said. If that doesn't do the trick, then a recorded voice can announce to the thieves when they enter the house or touch a painting, "This system is armed and ready to fire, you are in harm's way, leave immediately!"

"You can do that remotely from your safe bedroom in the house or from a sidewalk in Paris," Corbi said. "We do a lot of those."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

A biometric reader to open a door.

Whether for the uber-rich or regular folk, security experts' toolboxes are brimming with devices—some simple, some high-voltage (literally), everything from a good $10 window lock to a nuke-safe underground hide-out that costs millions.

"You can have a moat with alligators if you want," Chris E. McGoey, a Murrieta, Calif.-based security expert, said somewhat facetiously. "I've seen celebrities have vicious, barking dogs on a loudspeaker, and I've heard recordings of guns being cocked. You can have a net drop down on home invaders."

How low-tech.

Corbi recently was commissioned to design a Bat Cave, as he calls it, to protect a car collection. The design included a waterfall in front of the garage, which parts, Red Sea-like, when the owner arrives home. The door opens, a steel plate slides out of the garage, and the driver pulls onto it. The plate then slides back into the garage and onto a turntable that pivots to the car's parking spot on a platform, 2 feet off the ground. Cost: $2.5 million.

Some of the most sophisticated systems are intended to protect people, not property.

One client commissioned Corbi to design a two-story, subterranean shelter that could withstand what Corbi calls the NBCs: nuclear, biological and chemical attacks. That shelter design included a pizzeria, a theater and enough food and water to last years. The cost? "You can only imagine," Corbi said. "One client wanted a putting green for golf in his nuclear shelter," he added.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

A camera-surveillance monitor in a bathroom that also serves as a "safe room."

Beverly Hills luxury real estate agent Bob Hurwitz listed a home for sale in Encino, in the San Fernando Valley. Its previous owners included a recording-industry titan who put in a "safe room" lined with Kevlar. It was hidden behind a wall that opened—just like in the movies—by touching a certain spot on the wall. A Montecito, Calif., client not only dedicated one entire room to a bank vault for the family's valuables, but also had a $36-million underground tunnel that led to a secret guesthouse.

The goal, security experts say, is to set up layers of protection that might include shatter-proof windows ($3,000 to $15,000 each) and bullet-proof doors ($2,300 to $6,000).

Inside the house, some owners create what Corbi calls a "safe core," such as upstairs bedrooms that, with the locking of one or more special doors, are sealed off from the intruder.

A "safe room" typically has one opening, is fortified with a solid core or steel door and has 3-inch screws in the door hinges, heavy-duty lock strike plates and a strong deadbolt lock, McGoey said. It is equipped with an alarm pad, a cell phone, a flashlight, a first aid kit, food and water.

How far homeowners go on the security continuum depends on the size of their pocketbooks and the degree of their paranoia. "You can secure windows, doors, the garage and create a safe core for $1,500," said Lana Corbi, vice president of marketing for SAFE and Al Corbi's wife, "or spend seven figures and know when someone puts a toenail on your property."

At the least, veteran L.A. Police Detective Bill Longacre said, owners should "make it appear that your house is protected, even if it's not. Have good lighting and a good line of sight so people can see the front of the house." Test alarm systems regularly, he added. "And use it if you have one. Most people don't."

KITCHEN MAGIC

Snow Pea, Radish and Celery Sauté

Serve this light, lemony vegetable sauté with roast chicken or a light fish dish.

2 large green onions
2 large celery stalks
1 bunch radishes
1/2 pound Chinese pea pods (snow peas)
1 tablespoon salad oil
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 large lemon

1. Cut green onions into 1-inch pieces. Slice celery diagonally into thin slices. Cut each radish in half. Remove stem and strings along both edges of each pea pod.

2. In nonstick 10-inch skillet over medium-high heat, in hot salad oil, cook green onions, celery, radishes, pea pods and salt until vegetables are lightly browned and tender-crisp.

3. Cut lemon in half. Squeeze juice from half of lemon over vegetables. Spoon vegetables onto platter. Slice remaining lemon into thin slices. Garnish vegetables with lemon slices. ***(c) 2008 Hearst Communications, Inc.***

Q: I have a friend who has a fig tree in his garden. Every fall, he uproots it, digs a bigger hole and buries the tree until spring. Have you ever heard of such a crazy thing? I know people uproot bulbs and store them through winter, but not whole trees.—Larry in Quincy, Mass.

Winterproofing

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

A: That's pretty cool, and if it works, great. Keeping a non-native tree alive in a much colder climate is quite a challenge.

Your friend's seasonal routine is a good example of how caring for your home's outdoor items—whether they be plants or tools—keeps them in good shape and lasting for years. As the weather turns from hot to cold and the growing season ends, now is the time to begin cleaning and storing yard and garden equipment for the winter.

Most parts of the country have at least one yard-mowing and hedge-trimming weekend left, so stagger your equipment put-away schedule. Start with the gardening tools, for example, leaving the lawnmower for last.

Clean hand tools with mild soap and water, rinse and dry thoroughly. Coat metal parts with either an all-purpose oil or a thin layer of floor wax. Rub a thin coat of linseed oil onto wooden handles. Store tools properly—hanging vertically from a punch board, for example, is best—away from moisture or direct sunlight.

Gas-powered equipment should have the gas tank drained in a well-ventilated area (store the gas in proper containers or discard according to your town's hazardous materials rules). Inspect the engine's spark plug—replace if necessary—and replace the air filter. Then clean the blade area and surrounding parts with soapy water, rinse, dry and spray with an all-purpose oil. Store according to manufacturer directions.

HOME TIP: Brown or bare patches of lawn can be reseeded just before the first hard frost. Most of the seeds will stay dormant and sprout next spring.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

The Good Life

Wayne Clough, engineering

By JACQUELINE TRESCOTT
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

During his getting-acquainted tour of the Smithsonian, Wayne Clough, the institution's new secretary, was stopped in his tracks by a group of researchers poring over pages of "endangered" languages.

At the National Anthropological Archives in suburban Suitland, Md., one of the many outposts of the Smithsonian empire, Clough heard how experts at the institution have been collecting languages since before the Smithsonian was the Smithsonian.

This group handed him some cards. He undid the white ribbon and found slips with words from the Poosepatuck Nation. Clough recalled he was a little flabbergasted when Robert Leopold told him these were 19th-century copies of a set that Thomas Jefferson had written on a trip to Long Island in 1791. And Clough (pronounced "cluff") said he was even more impressed when he visited a laboratory and saw that 8,000 pages of Cherokee had been digitized and shared with North Carolina tribe members who wanted to teach their children the language.

Then there was the visit with the keepers of the worms, conducting a DNA project of 5.8 million specimens, in which Clough saw how materials stored for decades now play into the hot topic of biodiversity.

This stop was one of many during his almost three months at the helm that showed what makes the Smithsonian unique—it has all this (ital) stuff (end ital)—and invigorated his own thinking about how to connect the institution's past and its holdings to the future.

"My job is to put my arms around all of this" and define the 21st-century Smithsonian, said Clough, sitting in his shirt sleeves in a conference room.

Clough, 66, a tall, slender son of the South, is a civil engineer who has had to move fast to learn what the vast enterprise of the Smithsonian means—to the visitors, the curators, the local community and the major bankrollers, as well as Congress, approver of 70 percent of the institution's nearly $1 billion budget.

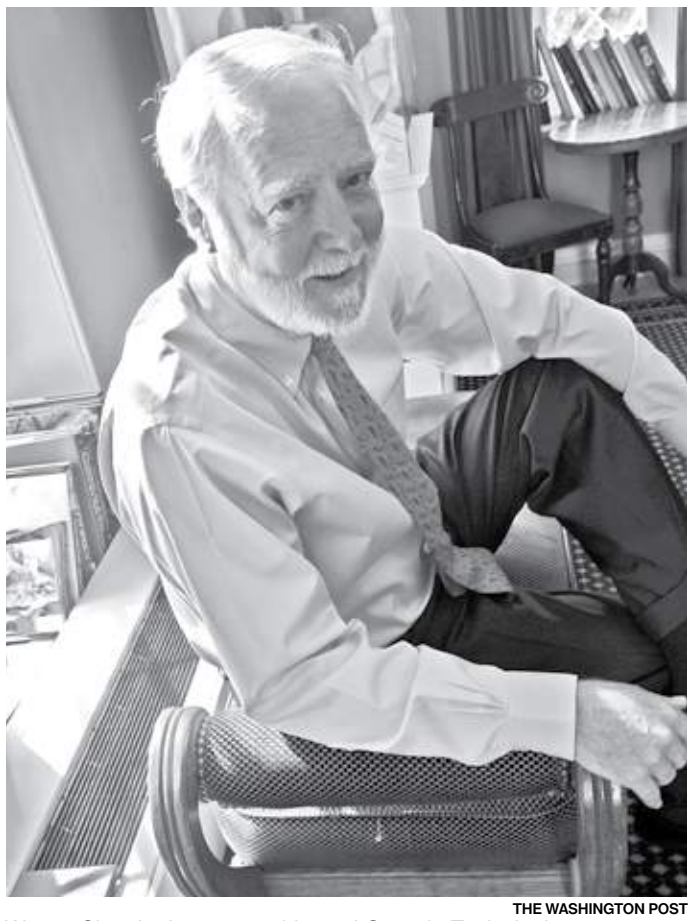
The stakes are high for a man who has had 39 successful years at educational institutions. And the stakes are perhaps higher for the Smithsonian, which has recently suffered from administrative mismanagement, congressional outrage and low staff morale.

■ ■ ■ ■

For more than 160 years, the Smithsonian had been a quiet powerhouse in Washington's cultural life and the larger museum world. But three years ago Congress started complaining about secrecy at the Smithsonian, including a contract to start a television programming network—an arrangement that raised questions about access to the museum's materials.

Then there were the ballooning executive salaries. Lawrence Small, a banker who was appointed the 11th secretary in 2000, resigned in 2007 after investigations found he was using Smithsonian money for home repairs and luxuries. Further questions about unauthorized expenses and outside income led to more resignations. External reports criticized Smithsonian management and the upkeep of its visitor-heavy buildings. Last year, when Congress was pushing for a shake-up of the Smithsonian, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., called the museum "an endangered institution."

As a result, the Smithsonian Board of Regents, which includes the chief justice of the United States, began reforms of its governance. In March the regents selected Clough, a museum outsider but a man with strong science credentials, experience in leading complex institutions and a proven record for raising huge sums of money.



THE WASHINGTON POST
Wayne Clough, former president of Georgia Tech, is the new secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. He wants the entire institution to be engaged in what he calls "the great issues of the day" and wants the Smithsonian to show people "how things tie together." Clough is photographed in Washington.

Clough accepted a $490,000 annual salary, with no housing allowance, compared with the $551,186, and a home, that he received as president at Georgia Tech—and far less than the former secretary's $916,000.

Clough's priority was finding out what Congress wanted in the new leadership.

"The first month the focus was on Hill visits," said Clough, who tallied 19 courtesy calls and visited some offices twice. "I found a positive feeling about the Smithsonian, and they said we needed to do a better job of polishing the image, and want assurances that it is in good hands."

He also got warnings that federal money is scarce, and Clough has pledged to bring in more research money and tackle the $2.5 billion needed for repairs.

A legislator who has kept a sharp eye on the Smithsonian, Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said he was impressed by Clough but "I told him regardless of the sincerity of his efforts to improve its reputation, there is a culture that exists that has to be overcome, the culture of secrecy."

Clough has begun to unveil his own visions for the Smithsonian. He wants the entire institution to be engaged in what he calls "the great issues of the day" and wants the Smithsonian to show people "how things tie together." He talks broadly about "vanishing boundaries," how to continue pushing the Smithsonian out of those buildings on the Mall, to educate not just millions of visitors but also those who stay home.

The Smithsonian has deep bench strength, with a staff of nearly 6,000, many of whom are internationally recognized scientists and curators with one-of-a-kind specialties. Clough wants them all to be partners in this transition. Roger Sant, chairman of the Board of Regents, recalled that at one town-hall-style meeting, "he said he was very proud of their work, and proud to be a part of it. ... There is a growing sense of pride that we are back on track."

Clough concedes this is all tricky: "There is always a tension in creative institutions, and the tension exists because things change so fast. There is relevance in what we do, and we should not fear, for example, digitization. The curator wants to hold things tight. But with digitization and public access, instead of one person you have 6 million with this information. But there is always a role for the expert and the curator. We want the Smithsonian to be far ahead of the changes."

While touring the Smithsonian, Clough has shown that same hands-on approach that people back in Georgia admired. At the airplane restoration facility in Suitland, he walked into an area where masked workers were sanding. "He got right in there and climbed over barriers," said Gen. John Dailey, director of the National Air and Space Museum. "And he shook hands with mechanics who had grease all over them."

The presence of an engineer at the Smithsonian's helm is perhaps fitting; at the top of almost everyone's list of the institution's problems are its crumbling buildings. In all, there are 18 museums and one on the drawing board, a huge zoo and nine research centers. Dozens of other buildings are not open to the public.

Repairs will total an estimated $2.5 billion; still, Clough said, "It wasn't nearly as bad as I had been led to believe."

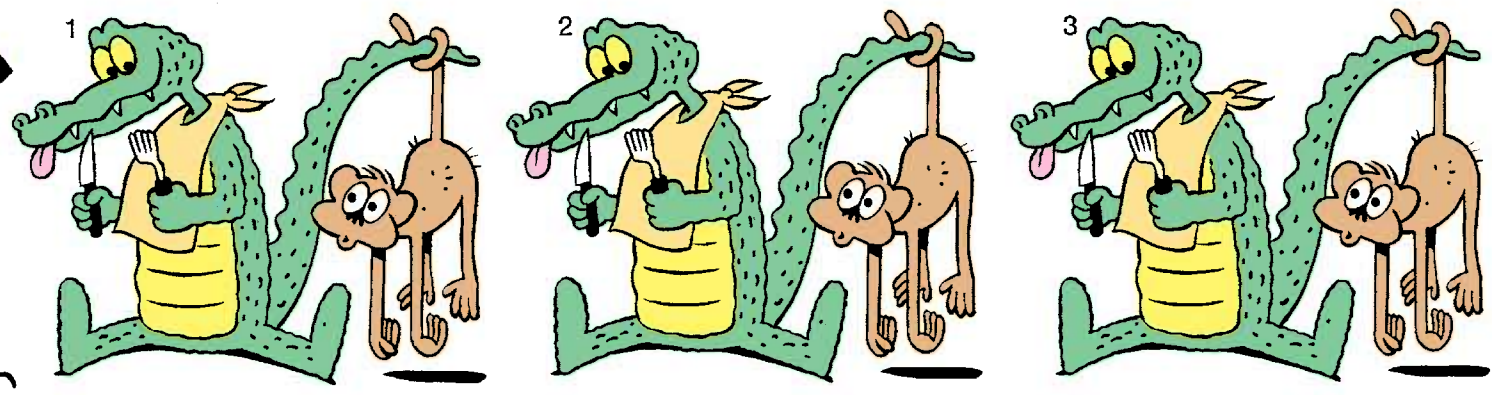
At Georgia Tech he helped raise millions from private sources and debt financing. "The campus looks brand new with green space, more transportation. It was all done under his watch," said Hubert Harris, chairman of the school's board.

From his conference room in the Castle building is a view of the Arts and Industries Building, a national landmark shuttered for four years. "That is inexcusable," he said, describing an afternoon when he sat outside and watched people reading the sign that tells what's inside and going up the steps to find the door locked. "I think it is a shame. And it is up to us to get it opened."

the smithsonian's growth

Bob Weber Jr.'s Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids

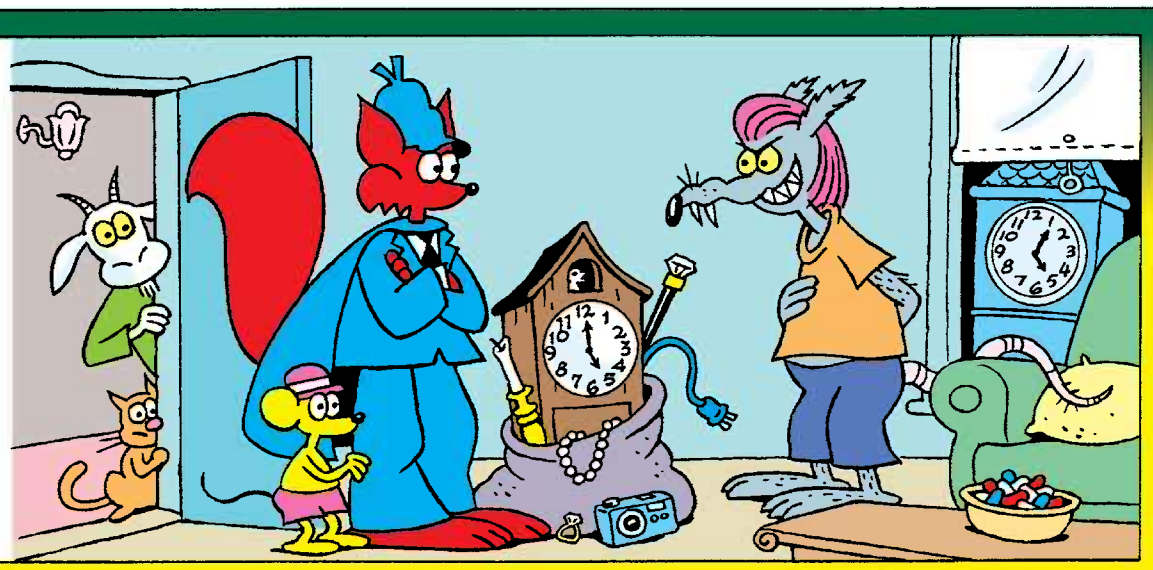
Which scene is slightly different from the other two?



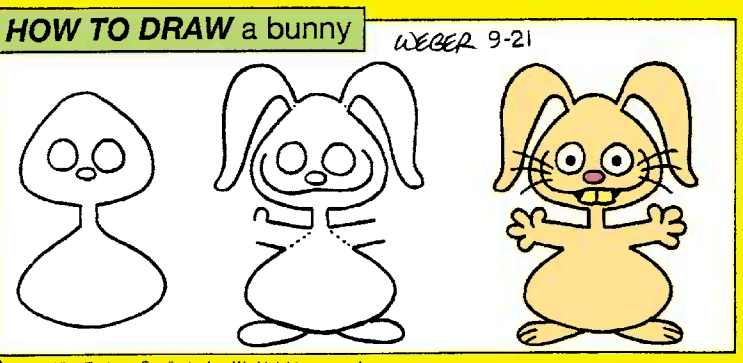
Answer -- Number one.

Mr. Goat called Slylock Fox when he saw a stranger enter his neighbor's apartment. When Slylock arrived 15 minutes later, he found Reeky Rat with a sack of items. The rats claims he is returning things he had borrowed. Why does Slylock doubt his story?

Solution -- The clock in the sack shows 5:00. The clock outside shows 5:05. The clock in the sack was unplugged 5 minutes ago while Reeky was stealing.



HOW TO DRAW a bunny



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Justice Duvall, age 7, of Kearneysville, West Virginia

Submit your drawings at **www.kidcartoonists.com**

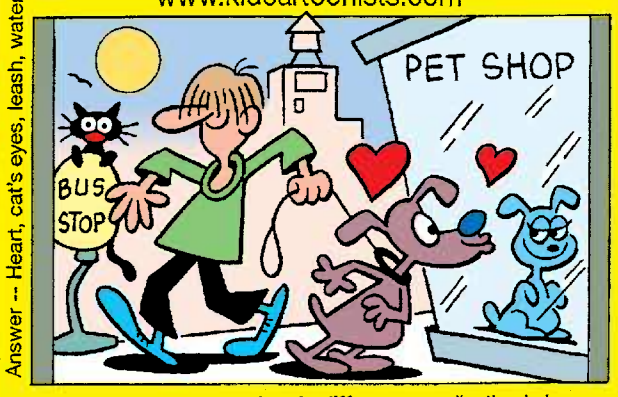
Most pet rabbits are descendants of wild rabbits from ...

a) China
b) Europe
c) Africa
d) Australia
e) South America

Answer -- b)

Find six differences between these panels.

www.kidcartoonists.com



Answer -- Heart, cat's eyes, leash, water tower, bird and window.

New! The fourth **Find the six differences** collection is here. Send $4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to **Six Differences No. 4**, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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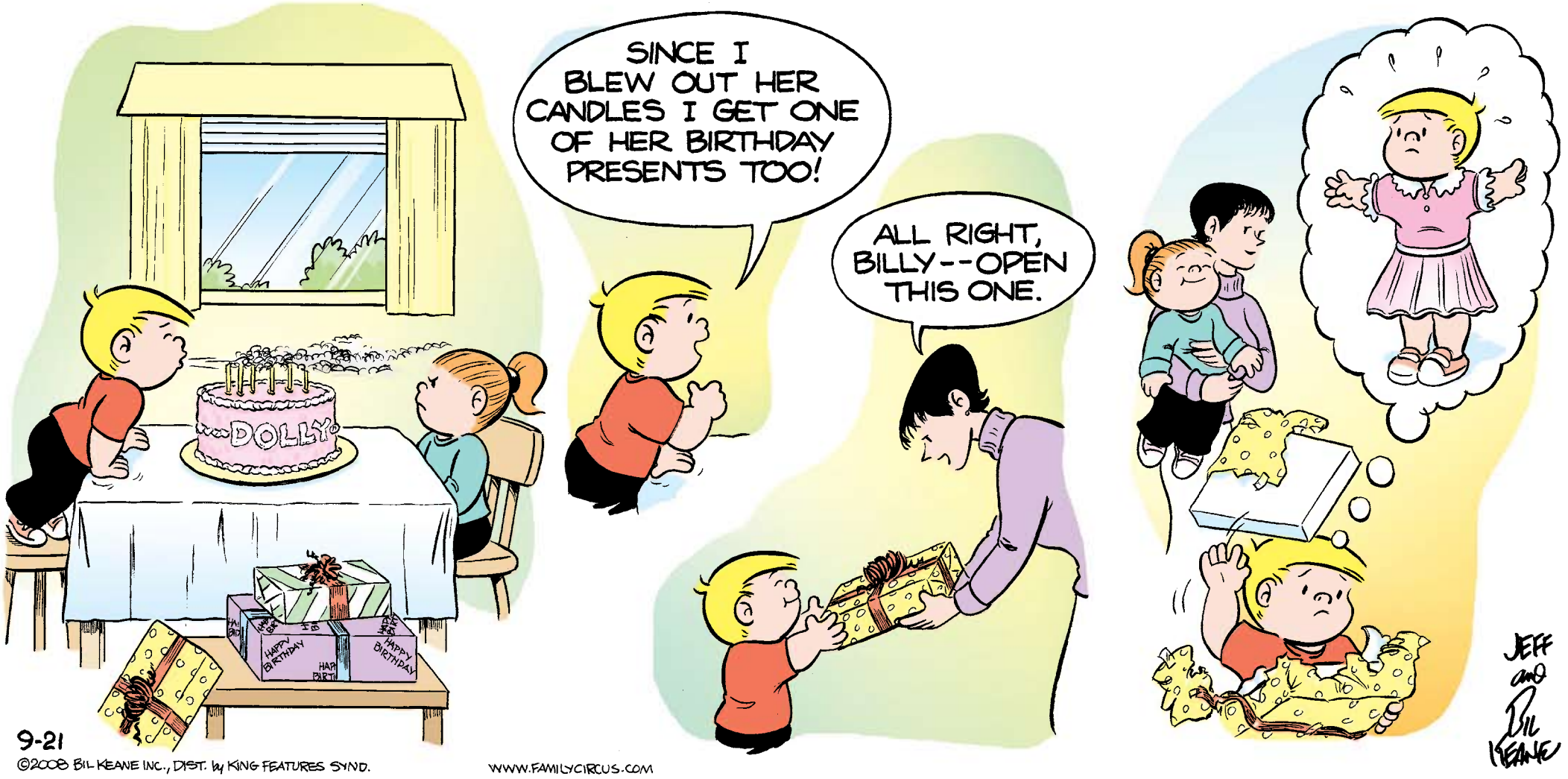
THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane


SINCE I BLEW OUT HER CANDLES I GET ONE OF HER BIRTHDAY PRESENTS TOO!
ALL RIGHT, BILLY--OPEN THIS ONE.
DOLLY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
9-21
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JEFF and BIL KEANE

Mort Walker's

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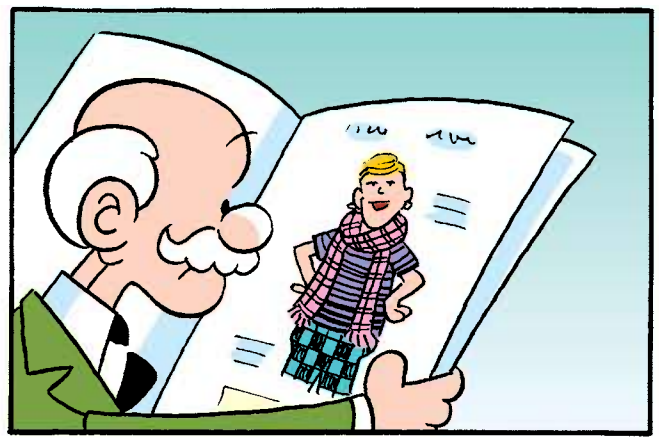

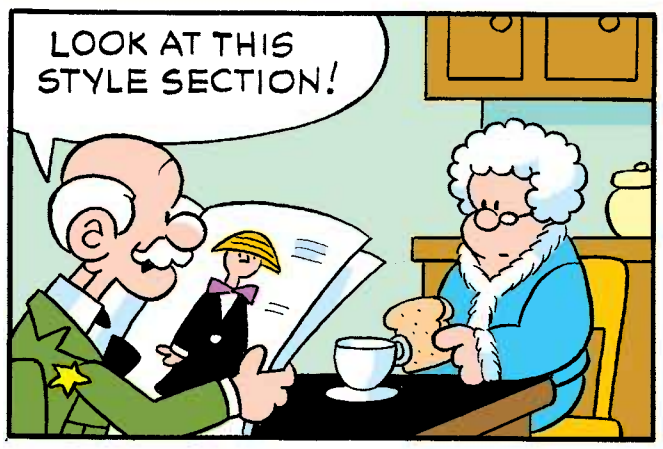

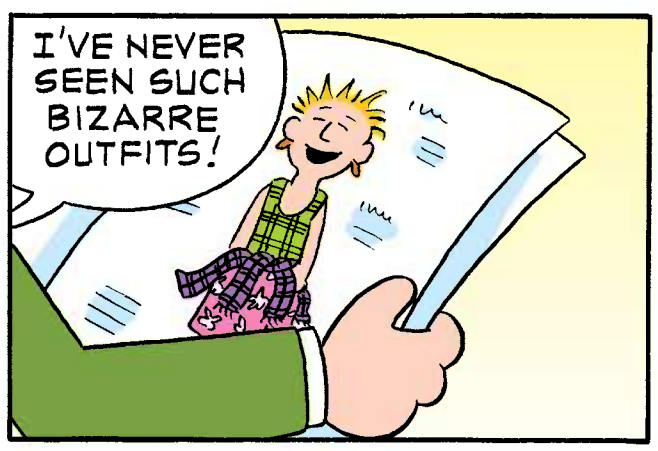

WWW.MORTWALKER.COM

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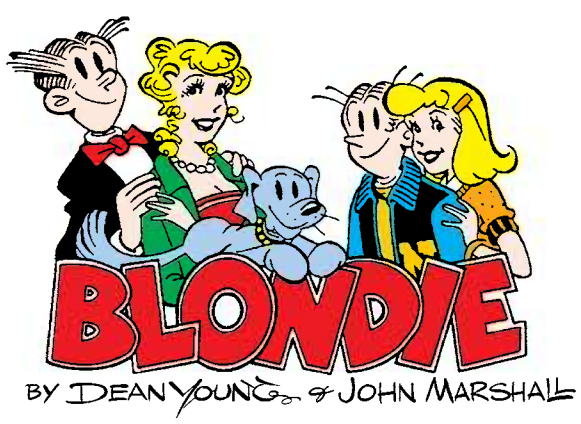
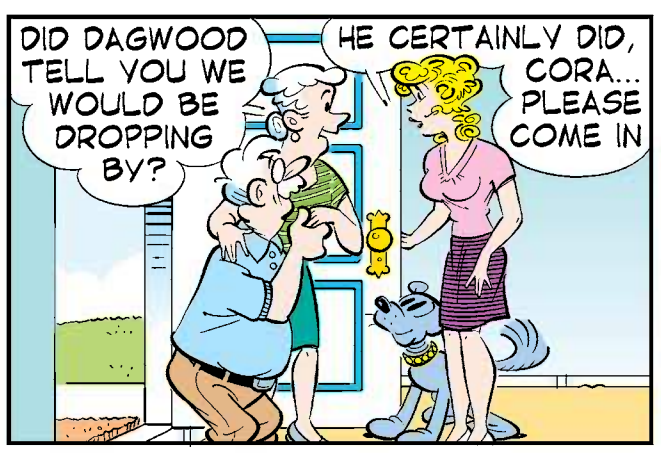
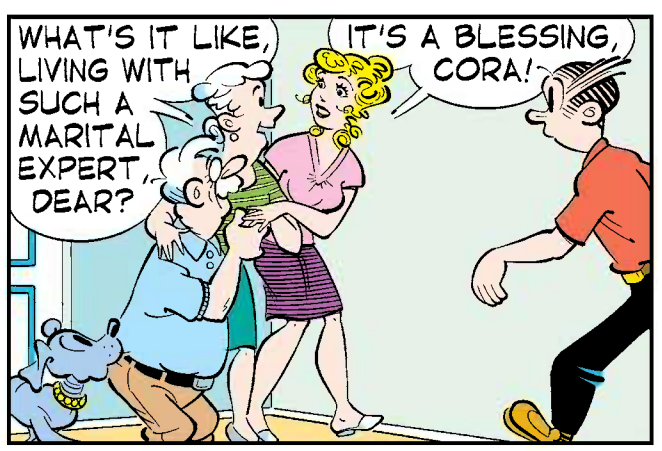
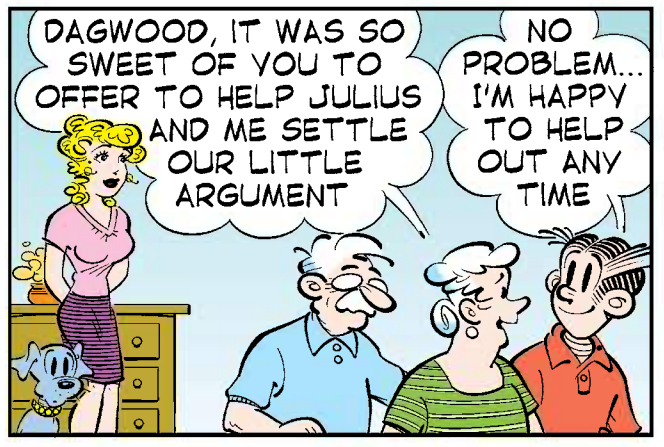
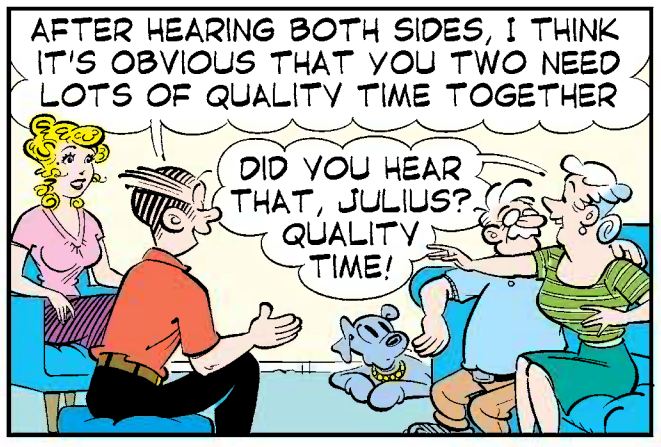


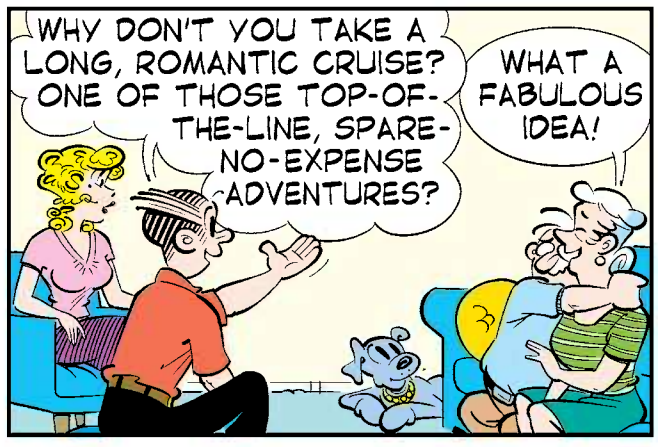


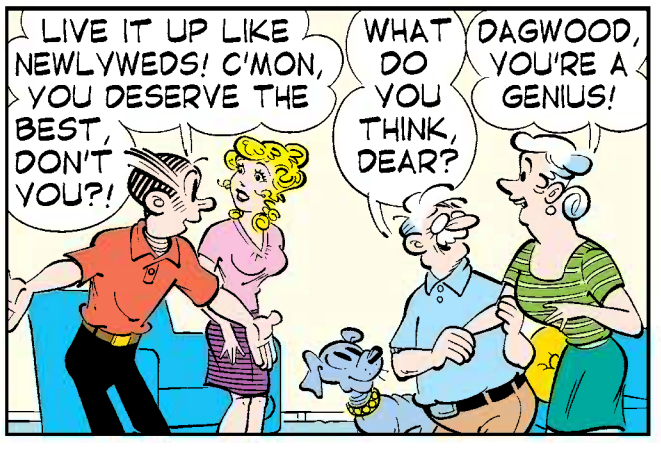



DAGWOOD, IT WAS SO SWEET OF YOU TO OFFER TO HELP JULIUS AND ME SETTLE OUR LITTLE ARGUMENT
NO PROBLEM... I'M HAPPY TO HELP OUT ANY TIME

www.blondie.com


AFTER HEARING BOTH SIDES, I THINK IT'S OBVIOUS THAT YOU TWO NEED LOTS OF QUALITY TIME TOGETHER
DID YOU HEAR THAT, JULIUS? QUALITY TIME!





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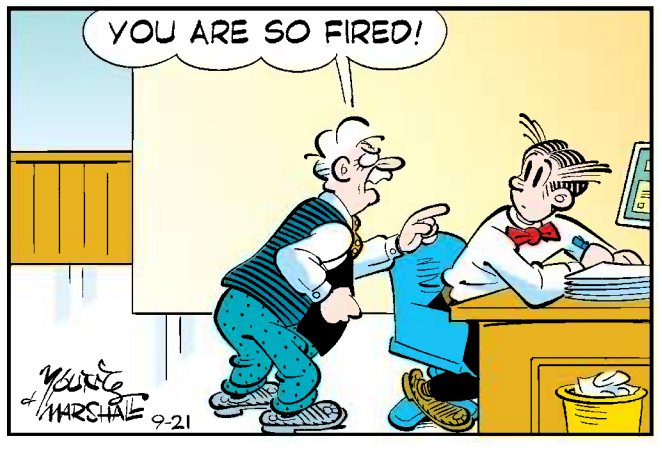

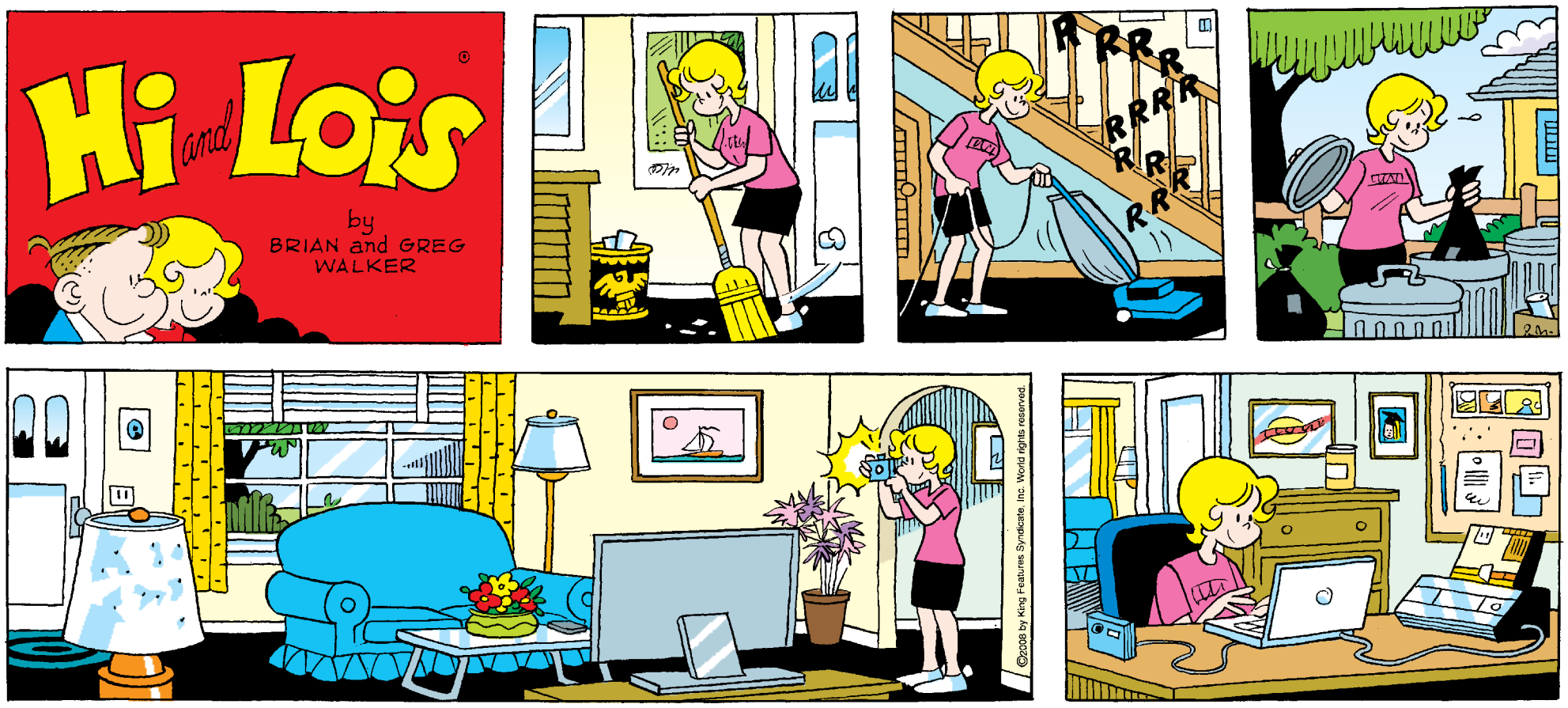
Hi and Lois
by
BRIAN and GREG
WALKER
RRRRRRRRRRRR
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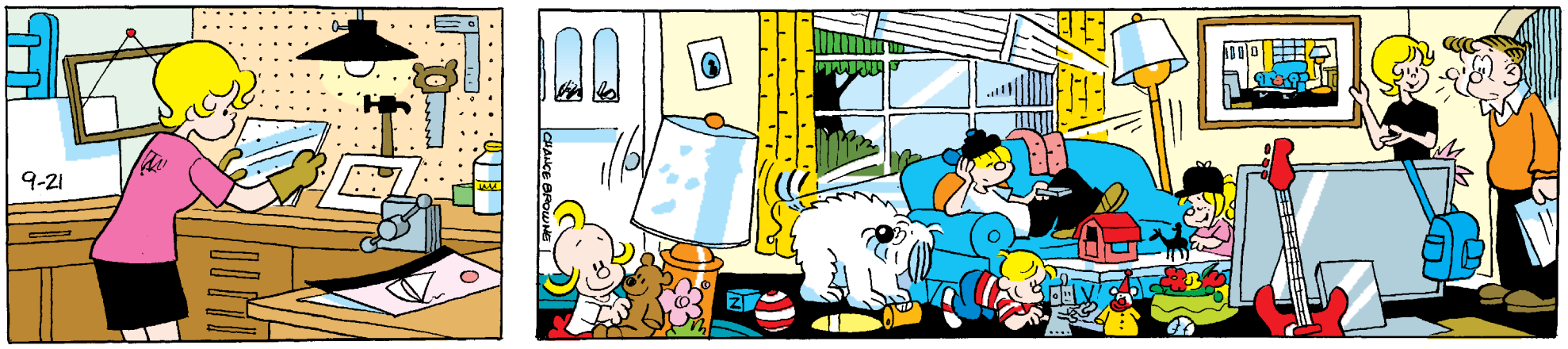
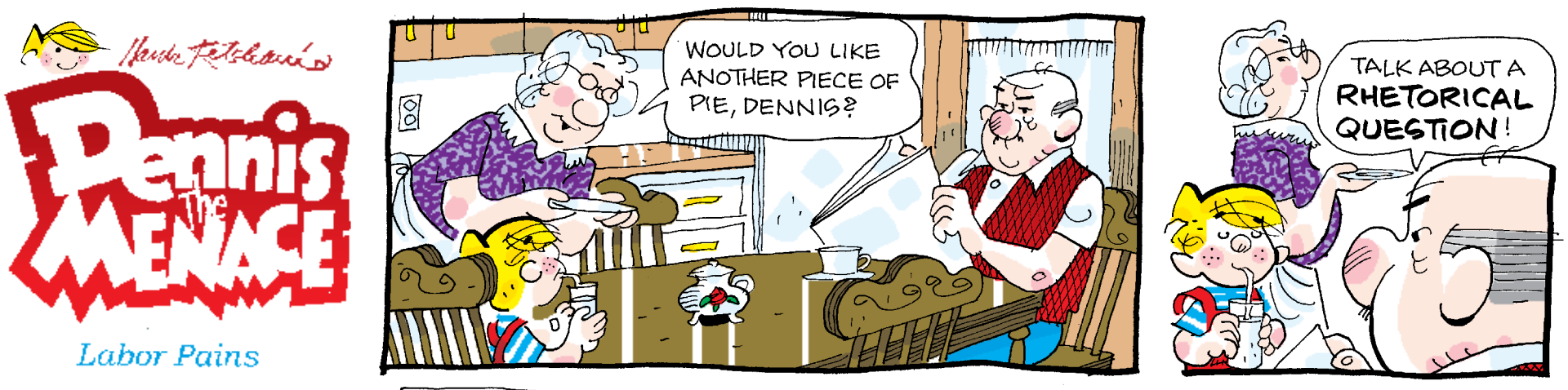
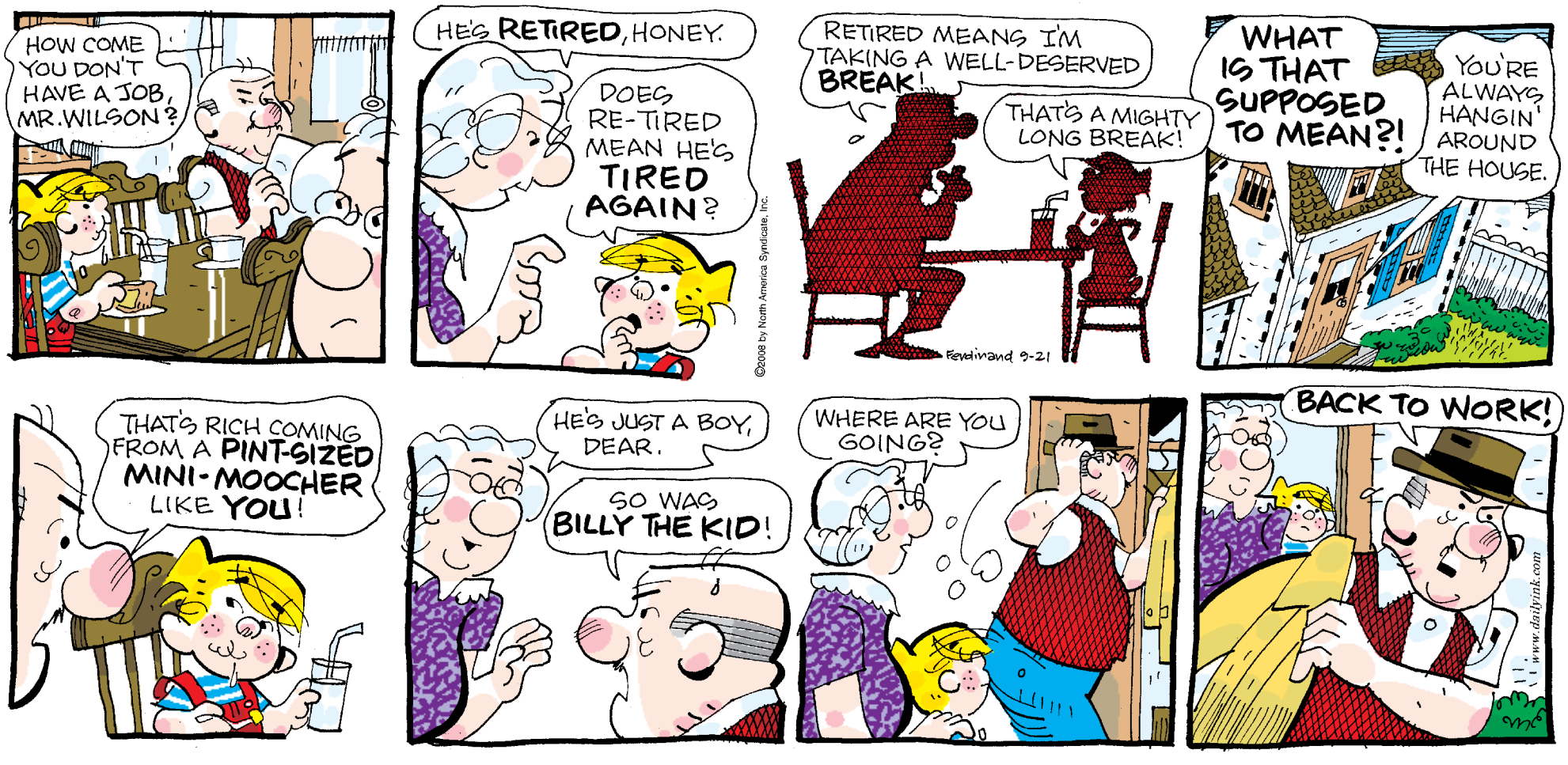

9-21
CHANCE BROWNE


Hank Ketcham's
Dennis the MENACE
Labor Pains
WOULD YOU LIKE ANOTHER PIECE OF PIE, DENNIS?
TALK ABOUT A RHETORICAL QUESTION!


HOW COME YOU DON'T HAVE A JOB, MR. WILSON?
HE'S RETIRED, HONEY.
DOES RE-TIRED MEAN HE'S TIRED AGAIN?
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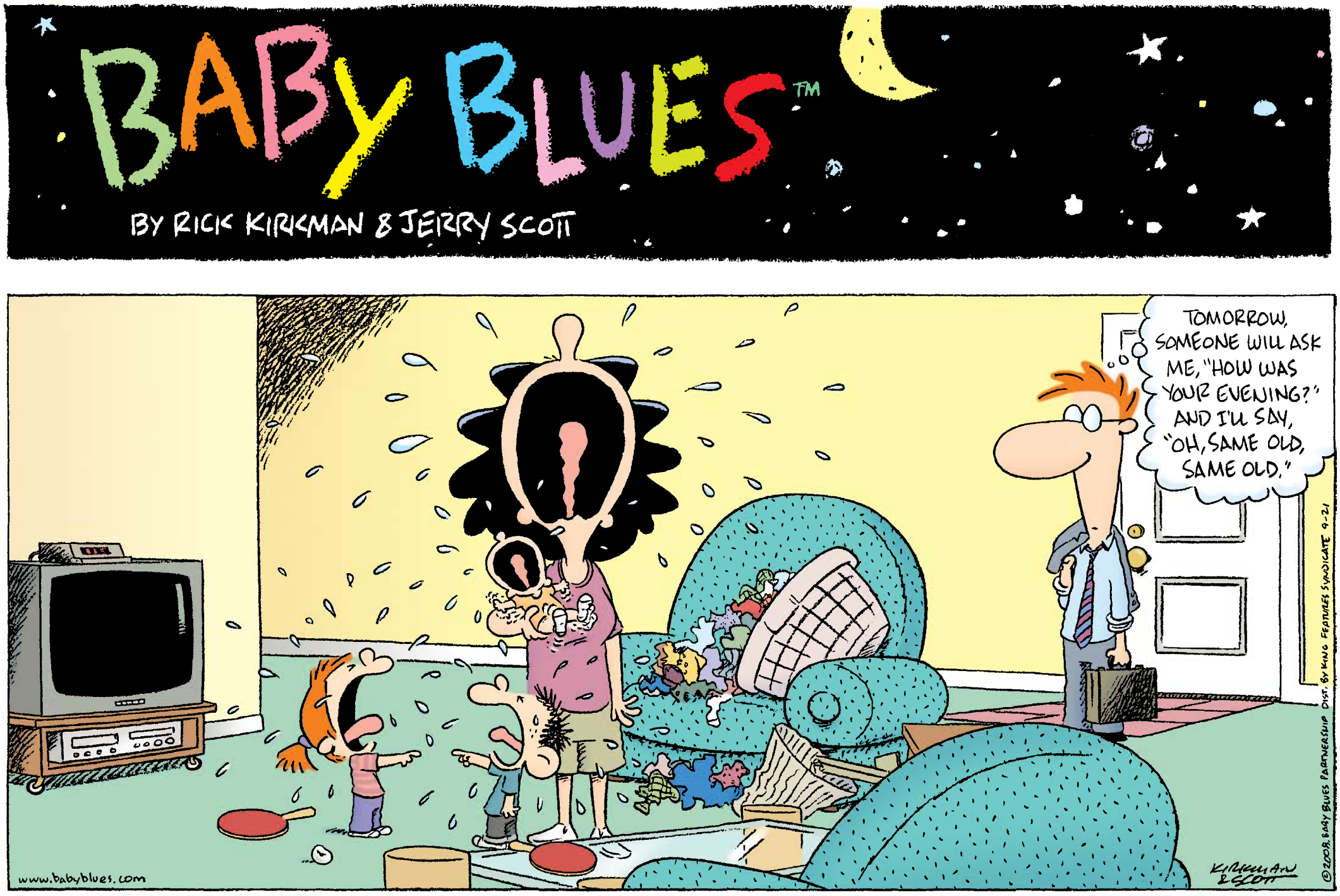
RETIRED MEANS I'M TAKING A WELL-DESERVED BREAK!
THAT'S A MIGHTY LONG BREAK!
Ferdinand 9-21
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
YOU'RE ALWAYS HANGIN' AROUND THE HOUSE.
THAT'S RICH COMING FROM A PINT-SIZED MINI-MOOCHER LIKE YOU!
HE'S JUST A BOY, DEAR.
SO WAS BILLY THE KID!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
BACK TO WORK!
www.dailypink.com


BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
TOMORROW, SOMEONE WILL ASK ME, "HOW WAS YOUR EVENING?" AND I'LL SAY, "OH, SAME OLD, SAME OLD."
www.babyblues.com
©2008 BABY BLUES PARTNERSHIP DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE 9-21
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Aspects favor new romances for unpaired Ewes and Rams. Already-paired Arian twosomes experience renewed harmony in their relationships. Money matters also take a bright turn.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Use that strong Bovine determination to help you keep the faith with your convictions while you move through a period of uncertainty. Things begin to ease by the week's end.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Pay attention to your intuition. It could be alerting you to be more careful about accepting a "statement of fact" simply on trust. Don't be shy about asking for more proof.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Concern for the well-being of someone in need is admirable. But don't forget to take care of yourself as well. Ask a family member, close friend or colleague to help you.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) It's OK to focus on the demands of your career. But try to avoid misunderstandings by also reaching out to family and friends. Your sharp intuitive sense kicks in by midweek.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Keep a rein on that green-eyed monster. Jealousy is counterproductive. Instead of resenting a colleague's good points, concentrate on developing your own abilities.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Spending time on a creative project during this high-energy week can pay off both in emotional satisfaction and in impressing someone who is glad to see this side of you.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Now is a good time to start planning that trip you've put off because of the demands on your time. Be sure to choose a destination that is new and exciting.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) That upbeat mood in the first part of the week makes you eager to take on new ventures. A more serious note sets in later to help you assess an upcoming decision.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A high energy level gives the Goat the get-up-and-go to finish outstanding tasks before deadline, leaving time for well-earned fun and games with friends and family.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Dealing with disappointment is never easy. But the wise Aquarian will use it as a vital lesson and be the better for it. A close friend has something important to say.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Best bet is not to get involved in an argument between colleagues until you know more about who started it and why. And even then, appearances could be deceiving. Be alert.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have creative gifts that inspire those who get to see this sometimes-hidden side of you.

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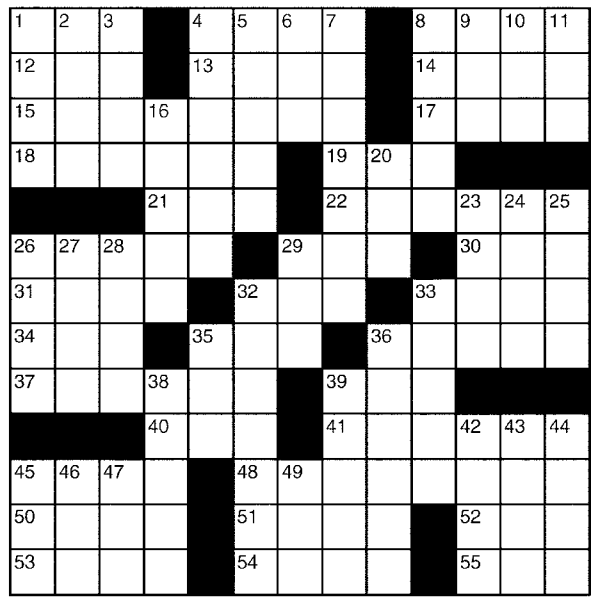
King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Meadow
4 Penicillin provider
8 Japheth's dad
12 Bobby of hockey
13 Duel tool
14 Grooving on
15 Mixed drink
17 Start a garden
18 Source
19 Prior night
21 Speck
22 Take in, maybe
26 Esteem
29 Examine critically
30 Sapporo sash
31 Quite some time
32 Kennedy or Koppel
33 Navy jail
34 Savings plan acronym
35 "Simpsons" network
36 Borscht needs
37 Sell in small quantities
39 Lummox
40 — and outs
41 Nike symbol
45 Missing
48 Drive too close
50 Grand story
51 Curved molding
52 Rocky peak
53 Draw with a laser
54 Play area
55 Hot tub

DOWN
1 Places
2 Piccadilly statue
3 Curved lines
4 Shower participant?
5 Dizzying designs
6 Mainlander's memento
7 Taken out of context?
8 Japanese-Americans
9 Indivisible
10 Corroded
11 Scuttle
16 Praise
20 Cistern
23 Traditional tales
24 Final notice
25 Cheats, a la "Quiz Show"
26 "Aquarius" musical
27 Shrek, for one
28 Tidy
29 Irritate
32 "War and Peace" author
33 Confuse
35 Shark part
36 Wept loudly
38 Eighth letter
39 Wicker willow
42 Feedbag fill
43 Call a halt to
44 Mrs. Zeus
45 Shelter
46 Make up your mind
47 "— semper tyrannis"
49 Khan title

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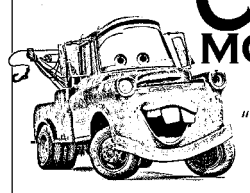
top ten

CAR MOVIES



"Mater" from *Cars*

1. *American Graffiti* (1973)
2. *The Blues Brothers* (1980)
3. *Cars* (2006)
4. *The Fast and the Furious* (2001)
5. *Gone in Sixty Seconds* (1974)
6. *Grand Prix* (1966)
7. *The Gumball Rally* (1976)
8. *Mad Max* (1979)
9. *Thunder Road* (1958)
10. *Vanishing Point* (1971)

Source: Edmunds.com

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KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

T	H	E	■	■	P	E	R	■	W	O	M	B
R	O	S	A	■	A	W	E	■	H	I	R	E
E	B	A	N	■	R	E	V	■	E	L	S	E
Y	O	U	T	H	■	R	U	H	R	■	■	■
■	■	■	E	B	B	■	E	R	E	C	T	S
J	E	A	L	O	U	S	■	S	T	O	A	T
O	R	S	O	■	G	O	D	■	H	A	T	E
U	N	A	P	T	■	B	A	R	E	X	A	M
R	E	P	E	A	T	■	M	A	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	P	R	O	W	■	P	E	A	K	S
I	D	O	L	■	A	I	L	■	E	R	I	E
D	I	V	A	■	D	N	A	■	R	I	L	E
S	P	A	Y	■	Y	E	W	■	■	A	N	D

United States

Radical bailout plan has a jawdropping price tag

ACROSS THE NATION

Galveston lays out plan for residents' return

GALVESTON, Texas (AP)—Authorities laid out a plan Friday—a week after Hurricane Ike began lashing the Texas coast with 110-mph winds and relentless storm surge—to let about 45,000 anxious evacuees back onto Galveston Island for good. It will be another week before that happens, however, as crews were only beginning to get basic services restored on the crippled barrier island. A lone pump was back on at a gas station about two blocks behind the Galveston seawall Friday. Cell phone service was mostly restored and power was gradually coming back on. Residents will be allowed to return in phases, starting from the least damaged areas.

Arizona collegian convicted of killing roommate

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—A 19-year-old woman was convicted Friday of murdering her roommate in their University of Arizona dorm room by stabbing her 23 times. Galareka Harrison made no expression as the jury's verdict was read in Pima County Superior Court. She was convicted of first-degree murder in the death of 18-year-old Mia Henderson, a fellow Navajo tribal member from northern Arizona. She was also found guilty of three counts of forgery and one count of identity theft. After court recessed, she gave a wan smile, stood up and put on a black coat before being led out of the courtroom by jailers. Prosecutor Rick Unklesbay said Harrison planned the murder for days after Henderson accused her of stealing her student ID charge card, Social Security card, checks and $500 from a bank account. Unklesbay said Harrison was a "master manipulator" who lied repeatedly to police after the murder. Harrison finally admitted to stabbing Henderson but insisted she had acted in self-defense.

2 shot after school football game in LA County

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Officials say two people have been shot and wounded on a high school campus in south Los Angeles County. County Fire Department spokesman James Barnes says a 12-year-old girl and an 18-year-old man were both shot multiple times Friday night at Washington Preparatory High School in the Athens area. Barnes says the two are hospitalized in critical condition. Susan Cox, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles Unified School District, says the shooting occurred in a parking lot outside the gymnasium at the end of a football game. She says the male victim was a student at the school last year. Cox says one suspect was seen running east from the campus. No arrests have been made.

Brother of Providence, RI, mayor headed to prison

BOSTON (AP)—A federal judge sentenced the lawyer brother of the mayor of Providence, R.I., to 18 months in prison on Friday for offering to set up drug deals so his client could get a lighter sentence by alerting authorities. John M. Cicilline, 51, pleaded guilty in June to conspiracy, obstruction of justice and making false statements for his role in the courthouse corruption scheme. Prosecutors recommended the punishment as part of a plea deal that spared Cicilline the maximum sentence of 25 years in prison and $1 million in fines. Cicilline apologized in U.S. District Court in Boston as his family watched. He has agreed to surrender his law license.

Muslim leader says 150 workers fired at Neb. plant

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—A Grand Island meatpacking plant fired at least 86 workers Friday after they walked off the job amid a dispute over prayers during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, company officials said. But a Muslim leader and one of the fired workers said 150 Muslims lost their jobs. JBS Swift & Co. spokeswoman Tamara Smid confirmed 86 firings late Friday, saying the employees were terminated earlier that day for repeatedly leaving work without authorization. She would not give any other details, including whether anyone else had been fired. Mohamed Rage, who leads the Omaha Somali-American Community Organization, said 80 workers were thrown out after an altercation late Thursday. He says when they tried to return for their shift Friday, they were fired, along with 70 others. Police said were called to the plant late Thursday amid reports of a riot or serious fight. But when officers arrived, the situation had calmed, said police Chief Steve Lamken.

AP

President Bush, second from the right, walks back to the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Friday, Sept. 19, 2008, after making a statement in the Rose Garden about the economy and government efforts to remedy the crisis. Following the president, from left are, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman Christopher Cox, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke.

By TOM RAUM and JEANNINE AVERSA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Struggling to stave off financial catastrophe, the Bush administration on Friday laid out a radical bailout plan with a jawdropping price tag—a takeover of a half-trillion dollars or more in worthless mortgages and other bad debt held by tottering institutions.

Relieved investors sent stocks soaring on Wall Street and around the globe. The Dow-Jones industrials average rose 368 points after surging 410 points the day before on rumors the federal action was afoot.

A grim-faced President Bush acknowledged risks to taxpayers in what would be the most sweeping government intervention to rescue failing financial institutions since the Great Depression. But he declared, "The risk of not acting would be far higher."

The administration is asking Congress for far-reaching new powers to take over troubled mortgages from banks and other companies, including purchasing sour mortgage-backed securities. Administration officials and congressional leaders are to work out details over the weekend.

Congressional officials said they expected a request for legal authority to buy up the bad loans, at a cost in excess of $500 billion to the government. Democrats were discussing whether to try to attach middle class assistance to the legislation, despite a request from Bush to avoid adding controversial items that could delay action. An expansion of jobless benefits was one possibility.

In other major steps, the Treasury Department and Federal Reserve moved to give money-market mutual funds the same kind of federal protection, at least temporarily, that now applies to savings and checking accounts and certificates of deposit at banks. Money-market accounts sold through retail banks are already FDIC insured.

The spreading global selling panic had started to threaten some money-market funds, usually thought of as rock-solid investments. Administration officials feared a run on these funds, held by millions of Americans.

"Every American should know that the federal government continues to enforce laws and regulations protecting your money," Bush said at the White House. The 75-year-old Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation now insures savings and checking accounts and certificates of deposit up to $100,000.

Separately, the Securities and Exchange Commission acted to block short-selling in financial securities. That is a trading method that bets the value of stocks will go down. It has been blamed for accelerating the plunge in stock prices of banks and other financial institutions.

"This is a pivotal moment for America's economy," Bush said. "In our nation's history, there have been moments that require us to come together across party lines to address major challenges. This is such a moment."

Ike helps uncover mystery vessel on Ala. coast

People look over the wreck of a wooden ship uncovered by Hurricane Ike on a beach on Fort Morgan Road in Fort Morgan, Ala., Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008.

AP

FORT MORGAN, Ala. (AP)—When the waves from Hurricane Ike receded, they left behind a mystery—a ragged shipwreck that archeologists say could be a two-masted Civil War schooner that ran aground in 1862 or another ship from some 70 years later. The wreck, about six miles from Fort Morgan, had already been partially uncovered when Hurricane Camille cleared away sand in 1969.

Researchers at the time identified it as the Monticello, a battleship that partially burned when it crashed trying to get past the U.S. Navy and into Mobile Bay during the Civil War.

After examining photos of the wreck post-Ike, Museum of Mobile marine archaeologist Shea McLean agreed it is likely the Monticello, which ran aground in 1862 after sailing from Havana, according to Navy records.

"Based on what we know of ships lost in that area and what I've seen, the Monticello is by far the most likely candidate," McLean said. "You can never be 100 percent certain unless you find the bell with 'Monticello' on it, but this definitely fits."

Other clues indicate it could be an early 20th century schooner that ran aground on the Alabama coast in 1933.

The wrecked ship is 136.9 feet long and 25 feet wide, according to Mike Bailey, site curator at Fort Morgan, who examined it this week. The Monticello was listed in shipping records as 136 feet long, McLean told the Press-Register of Mobile.

But Bailey said a 2000 report by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined the remains were the schooner Rachel, built at Moss Point, Miss., in 1919 and wrecked near Fort Morgan in 1933.

Asia

Milk off China's shelves as safety scandal grows

SHIJIAZHUANG, China (AP)—China's food safety crisis widened Friday after the industrial chemical melamine was found in milk produced by three of the country's leading dairy companies—prompting stores, including Starbucks, to yank milk from their shelves.

The recalls come as evidence is mounting that adding chemicals to watered-down milk was a widespread practice in China's dairy industry.

Sipping from a carton of milk at a news conference, the chief financial officer of one of the companies, Mengniu, apologized for the tainted milk. But he insisted only a small portion of the company's inventory had been contaminated and said the tainted milk came from small-scale dairy farmers.

"Large-scale milk farms are very disciplined. They won't take the risk to do something like that," Yao Tongshan told reporters in Hong Kong. Yao sipped from a carton of milk in a display meant to bolster consumer confidence.

The crisis was initially thought to have been confined to tainted milk powder, used to make baby formula that has been blamed in the deaths of four infants and for sickening 6,200 other children.

AP

A child, suffering from problems related to consuming tainted milk formula, rests at a hospital in Shijiazhuang, northern China's Hebei province, Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 524

As of Friday, Sept. 19, 2008, at least 524 members of the U.S. military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defense Department. The department last updated its figures Friday at 10 a.m. EDT. Of those, the military reports 375 were killed by hostile action. Outside the Afghan region, the Defense Department reports 65 more members of the U.S. military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. There were also four CIA officer deaths and one military civilian death. ***(AP)***

Japan Cabinet OKs anti-terror mission extension

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Cabinet approved a bill Friday to extend a refueling mission in support of U.S.-led anti-terror operations in the Indian Ocean, officials said. Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura said the bill is designed to extend a temporary law authorizing the refueling mission for another year until January 2010. The bill still needs parliamentary approval. The current law authorizing the mission expires on Jan. 15. Unless the extension is approved in time, the mission will have to be interrupted.

AP reporter detained, beaten by police in Vietnam

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) -- An Associated Press reporter in Vietnam was punched, choked and hit over the head with a camera by police who detained him Friday while he covered a Catholic prayer vigil in the communist country. Ben Stocking, the Hanoi bureau chief for The Associated Press, was released from police custody after about 2 1/2 hours and required four stitches on the back of his head. His camera was confiscated by police. Stocking, 49, was covering a demonstration by Catholic priests and church members at the site of the former Vatican Embassy in Hanoi, which is currently the subject of a land dispute between the church and city authorities.

Thai government opens talk with protesters

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thailand's government, seeking to ease a political standoff that has roiled the country for weeks, has initiated talks with the protest group occupying the prime minister's office compound, the country's new leader said Friday. "We are all Thais. ... (I) don't bear any grudge against anyone because of our differences," said Somchai Wongsawat, who assumed his job Thursday after the House of Representatives voted him in a day earlier. "The differences can be worked out through a dialogue." Somchai, 61, succeeded Samak Sundaravej, whose resignation the protesters from the People's Alliance for Democracy had been demanding. Samak was forced from office by a court in a conflict of interest case not directly related to their demand.

Bomb kills 5 at Pakistani religious school

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—A bomb exploded Friday at a religious school that police said was affiliated with a pro-Taliban political party, killing five people and wounding 10 more. Television footage showed a gaping hole in the rough mud wall around the seminary near the southwestern city of Quetta and one partly demolished adjacent room. Police said the blast occurred in the wrecked room but didn't indicate if it was an attack or if the bomb had been kept there. One witness claimed it was caused by a suicide bomber. Quetta police chief Wazir Khan Nasir said investigators were still trying to work out what kind of bomb it was and were questioning students and staff at the school.

World

Haiti's food crisis deepens

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Four tropical storms have wiped out most of Haiti's food crops and damaged irrigation systems and pumping stations, raising the specter of acute hunger for millions in the impoverished country.

"The system of agriculture has been destroyed," Agriculture Minister Joanas Gue told The Associated Press. Aid agencies and diplomats also say Haiti desperately needs help to avert mass hunger.

Emergency aid has flowed in to people directly affected by Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike, storms that triggered flooding and killed at least 425 people in less than a month, including 194 in the critical rice-growing Artibonite Valley.

But the United Nations has raised less than 2 percent of a critical $108 million fundraising appeal, said Stephanie Bunker, a spokeswoman for the world body's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Another $18 million has been pledged but not delivered.

And much, much more is needed, with farms damaged or destroyed across the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

"This will take billions of dollars. This is not something small," U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Henrietta Fore told AP.

AP

A woman walks through a muddy street in Gonaives, Haiti, Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008.

US raid kills 7; Iraqis say they were civilians

BAGHDAD (AP)—U.S. troops hunting for a suspected al-Qaida in Iraq militant raided a house Friday and killed seven people, including three women, drawing an angry protest from Iraqi officials that all the victims were civilians.

The U.S. military said the raid in Adwar - a Sunni town 70 miles north of Baghdad and just south of Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit - targeted an extremist responsible for suicide attacks and roadside bombings.

Neighbors and Iraqi officials claimed all the dead were from a poor family that had been uprooted by sectarian violence and had no links to the insurgency. Iraq's government demanded that those responsible for the raid be punished.

The dispute comes as the United States and Iraq are negotiating a security agreement to replace the U.N. mandate for foreign forces, which expires at year's end. Iraqi negotiators have insisted on oversight of U.S. military operations and the lifting of blanket immunity for American troops and security contractors.

WORLD BRIEFS

Medvedev: Russia won't be pushed into isolation

MOSCOW (AP)—President Dmitry Medvedev on Friday derided U.S. accusations that Russia was sliding into irrelevance, saying defiantly that Moscow would set its own course without isolating itself behind a new Iron Curtain. Medvedev said NATO and the Bush administration were provoking Russia. "All the time the talk is that 'look, finally they are showing their true faces, the regime is revealing its true colors, finally the side that is more characteristic for the Russia state has triumphed. The hawks have won,'" Medvedev said in a Kremlin speech. "In fact we are being pushed down a path of development that is based not on full-fledged, civilized cooperation with other countries, but on autonomous development behind thick walls, behind an Iron Curtain," he said.

French retailer in hot seat over Chinese chairs

PARIS (AP)—After tainted baby milk, now toxic chairs from China. Customers in France who bought Chinese-made recliners are complaining of stinging allergic rashes and infections. The French distributor, Conforama, warned clients in July that some of the chairs and sofas presented an allergy risk "in rare cases." It has withdrawn them from sale and now says the health problems were linked to an anti-fungal chemical in the chairs. Conforama says it has severed its commercial ties with the Chinese supplier, Linkwise, and told its other suppliers to no longer use the chemical, dimethyl fumarate, to prevent mold.

Immigrant protest turns violent in southern Italy

ROME (AP)—Hundreds of African immigrants took their anger over the alleged mafia killing of six Africans to the streets on Friday, hurling rocks and smashing windows in a town north of Naples. Several hundred people participated in the demonstration, which continued into the evening, police said. Television footage broadcast on Italian SkyTV24 showed protesters marching in the rain and blocking traffic. They taunted police who were deployed in vans and riot gear to control them as they marched more than six miles along a state highway. One protester threw himself in front of a car before being pulled away by a police officer.

Focus

A committee of 3 in the crucible of crisis

By DAVID CHO and NEIL IRWIN
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AP

President Bush, second from left, standing with, from left, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman Christopher Cox, makes a statement about the economy and government efforts to remedy the crisis, Friday, Sept. 19, 2008, in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington.

WASHINGTON—The response to the gravest financial crisis in generations has been engineered to a remarkable degree by a committee of three.

From the rescue of Bear Stearns to the takeovers of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and American International Group, all the key decisions have been made by Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr., Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke and Timothy F. Geithner, the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

It is this unusual collaboration among a consummate dealmaker, a professor and a seasoned public servant that could determine how the nation weathers the most profound threat to its economy in modern times. Despite their disparate backgrounds, the three men have formed a close, informal partnership built on rapid-fire phone calls and open debate that breaks the mold of Washington policymaking.

As they chart a government response to the crisis, the stakes could hardly be higher. If they succeed, they could tame the economic downturn and orchestrate a restructuring of Wall Street with minimal collateral damage. If they fail, the toll could be millions of jobs, trillions of dollars in lost wealth and a crisis of confidence in global capitalism.

Paulson, Bernanke and Geithner spent most of their careers in different worlds. They barely knew one another before beginning their current jobs and still rarely socialize—though they have spent more time working together in recent months than with their wives.

Paulson, 62, is an investment banker who rose through the ranks of Goldman Sachs to lead the firm. A lanky former Dartmouth College offensive tackle and an intense workaholic, he said he agreed in 2006 to become the Bush administration's third Treasury secretary to prepare the government for a possible market crisis.

Bernanke, 54 and calm of demeanor, is one of the foremost scholars of financial crises, especially the Great Depression. Before being named Fed chairman in 2006, the largest organization he had run was Princeton University's economics department.

Geithner, 47, was a career staff member at the Treasury Department when Lawrence Summers, then a Treasury undersecretary, plucked him from obscurity in the early 1990s. He became a key member of the group that guided the Clinton administration's response to the international financial crises in the 1990s and has been honing his knowledge of Wall Street since taking over the New York Fed in 2003.

"The biggest thing is we are not competing with each other, we are working together," Paulson said in an interview. "I would say they have done so much to help me, and I would do anything to help them."

Their teamwork, which began when Paulson came to Washington, has had a far-reaching and controversial effect on the financial world. Critics say they have been inconsistent in their reactions to market events—they allowed Lehman Brothers to collapse over the weekend but bailed out AIG on Tuesday—leaving the markets uncertain about what the government will do for other firms on the brink. Those who praise the men say the rescues go only to firms whose demise would cause broad distress, not any firm that comes begging.

The men's close partnership has also drawn the normally independent Fed into collaboration with political authorities while exposing taxpayers to tens of billions of dollars, critics say. And some lawmakers say the concentration of power into the hands of these men is too great.

Yet by virtue of the division of labor among them, they are able to cobble together government responses that might otherwise be elusive.

The men's influence and their different roles were on full display Saturday, a night that remade modern Wall Street.

Storied investment house Lehman was on the brink of insolvency.

Paulson, trusted in the tight network of Wall Street executives and long experienced in reading between the lines of their comments, emerged from a private meeting with Merrill Lynch chief executive John A. Thain and concluded that a proposed emergency sale of Lehman to Bank of America would not take place. Lehman's collapse, he realized, was all but certain.

He broke the news to the other two men and their senior staff members in a large conference room down the hall from Geithner's office on the 13th floor of the New York Fed. Plates of lasagna and papers littered the table.

It was gut-check time: Were they willing to let the firm fail even if it caused unpredictable ripples across the financial system?

On the speaker phone from Washington, Bernanke drew on his deep knowledge of past financial crises to be sure the group had considered every other option, and he shared the views he had gathered that afternoon of fellow central bankers in Europe and beyond.

Geithner's staff over previous weeks had studied the probable fallout of a potential Lehman bankruptcy and advised that the coming days, though difficult, would probably not be disastrous. He was ready to launch an effort to contain the damage in the financial markets.

In the end, the group agreed a government rescue of Lehman posed long-term dangers, possibly inviting other firms to take unnecessary risks in the belief they too would be bailed out if they stumbled. They had been discussing the prospect of a Lehman failure for weeks and determined that Wall Street could absorb the blow.

The meeting broke up.

High above the narrow streets of lower Manhattan, the committee of three had just decided that the 158-year-old Lehman would be allowed to fail.

This partnership was born of an intellectual kinship that has brought the men closer than most of their predecessors and has been forged by the mounting financial crisis.

Before Paulson took office, there was radio silence between the Treasury and the New York Fed.

The two Treasury secretaries who preceded Paulson under the Bush administration had little Wall Street experience. Paulson's immediate predecessor, John Snow, even closed the Treasury's monitoring room, where staff members keep an eye on global stock, bond and currency markets around the clock, to save money.

Snow's contact with Bernanke, then in office just six months, was mainly limited to formal weekly breakfasts. There was little communication between Snow and Geithner.

That changed rapidly with Paulson.

A creature of the financial markets prone to firing off rapid phone calls to any potential source of information, he took to calling Geithner and Bernanke at all times of day, to bounce ideas off them or discuss the latest trouble spot in the markets.

"Overcommunication never hurts," Paulson said. "If it is something significant, I would just pick up the phone and call Ben. ... One of the things I do is I create an atmosphere where I am so direct and so open and collaborative with people I trust that it brings out the same in them." (Bernanke and Geithner declined to be interviewed for this report.)

Paulson also revived the President's Working Group on Financial Markets to open communication with other regulators, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, and reopened the Treasury markets room, staffing it with employees detailed from the New York Fed.

He even showed advance texts of his speeches to Bernanke and Geithner. The first time, Paulson was surprised to get a heavily marked-up version from Geithner in return. Paulson set up a call, and the two went through the speech line by line.

Paulson and Bernanke kept up the weekly breakfasts, alternating the meal between their personal dining rooms at the Treasury and the Fed. The menu was always the same: juice, a Diet Coke for Paulson, and plain oatmeal with skim milk. "If I'm feeling wild and crazy, I may put a few raisins in there," Paulson said.

As the financial crisis began in August 2007, the phone calls became more frequent—often quick, and unplanned. The three developed a Socratic style; one man would present an idea, and the others would challenge it, consider its flaws and ultimately find ways to tweak it.

Within the fraternity, the man who takes the lead depends on which agency is primarily responsible for the matter at hand.

Last fall, Paulson took charge in persuading leading banks and mortgage firms to modify the loans of homeowners at risk of foreclosure—consulting Bernanke along the way.

When Geithner engineered the rescue of failing investment bank Bear Stearns in the middle of a cold March night, he had Paulson and Bernanke on the phone to get their input and blessing.

Paulson took the lead on the government takeover of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, but Bernanke advised him closely, and Geithner played a supporting role in calculating the impact on the financial markets.

And within the past week, all three were deeply involved in the decisions to throw AIG one lifeline and deprive Lehman of another.

The current circle is too tight for some critics, who say the closely guarded independence of the Fed may be threatened by Bernanke's intense collaboration with Paulson.

"The Federal Reserve is in the game in a lot of respects right now because it is the only really flexible entity in Washington. The Fed can make decisions more quickly than the political system can," said Vincent Reinhart, an American Enterprise Institute scholar and former senior Fed staff member. "But I'm not so sure that independence is fungible, that in terms of reputation, we're now getting to where the Fed is being viewed as too close to political decision-makers."

New Jersey Gov. Jon S. Corzine, D, Paulson's predecessor as the head of Goldman Sachs, raised a second concern, faulting the new troika for being inconsistent in its responses to recent crises.

"There's no ability for the markets to have a strategic understanding of what's expected out of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve," said Corzine.

Life & Style

Cambridge's fantastical new clock even tells time

By ROBERT BARR
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CAMBRIDGE, England (AP)—Most clocks just tell time, simply and reliably. Not the $1.8 million "time eater" formally unveiled Friday at Corpus Christi College in Cambridge.

The masterpiece, introduced by famed cosmologist Stephen Hawking, challenges all preconceptions about telling time. It has no hands or digital numbers and it is specially designed to run in erratic fashion, slowing down and speeding up from time to time.

Inventor John Taylor used his own money to build the clock as a tribute to John Harrison, the Englishman who in 1725 invented the grasshopper escapement, a mechanical device that helps regulate a clock's movement.

Making a visual pun on the grasshopper image, Taylor created a demonic version of the insect to top the gold-plated clock where it devours time.

The beast—with its long needle teeth and barbed tail—rocks back and forth, ultimately inserting its talons in notches at the top of the clock to move it forward. Halfway through the minute the grasshopper's jaws begin to open, snapping shut at 59 seconds.

"Time is gone, he's eaten it," said Taylor, who calls the oversize grasshopper "Chronophage," which translates to "time eater."

"My object was simply to turn a clock inside out so that the grasshopper became a reality," Taylor said.

At the unveiling, Hawking predicted the creature atop the clock would become "a much-loved, and possibly feared, addition to Cambridge's cityscape."

Taylor said he also hopes the clock will remind people of their own mortality.

Rather than having it toll the hour by a bell or a cuckoo, the clock relies on the clanking of a chain that falls into a coffin, which then loudly bangs closed.

"I'm in my early 70s and I realize that time is a destroyer," Taylor said in a telephone interview. "When you're a young person you think there is plenty of time.

"The sound was to remind me of my mortality."

The clock, four feet in diameter, displays time using light-emitting diodes. The light races around the outer ring once every second, pausing briefly at the actual second; the next ring inside indicates the minute, and the inner ring shows the hour.

The lights are constantly on, the apparent motion regulated mechanically through slots in moving discs.

Weirdly, the clock's pendulum slows down or speeds up. Sometimes it stops, the chronophage shakes a foot and the pendulum moves again.

Because of that, the time display may be as much as a minute off, although it swings back to the correct time every five minutes, said Taylor.

"There are so many expressions in everyday life about time going fast, time going slow and time standing still. Your life is not regular, it's relative to what's going on," Taylor said.

He cites Albert Einstein's observation: "When a man sits with a pretty girl for an hour, it seems like a minute. But let him sit on a hot stove for a minute and it's longer than any hour. That's relativity."

The clock is the showpiece of Corpus Christi's new library, also a gift from Taylor. His wealth comes from inventing controls for electric tea kettles, inventions which he estimates are used 1 billion times a day around the globe.

"I'm an inventor so I try to do things different to the way they've done before," Taylor said.

"Clocks are boring. They just tell the time, and people treat them as boring objects," he added. "This clock actually interacts with you, because you don't expect a clock to do anything."

Professor Stephen Hawking unveils The Corpus Clock, seen behind him, a new installation at Corpus Christi College in Cambridge, England, Friday, Sept. 19, 2008. Professor Stephen Hawking, author of A Brief History of Time, was guest of honour at a ceremony to mark the creation of The Corpus Clock, which cost more than 1 million pounds (US$1.8 million) to build and erect in Cambridge.
AP

ON THE NET

Corpus Christi College, http://www.corpus.cam.ac.uk/

Grasshopper escapement, http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hall/3934/grassh.html

Cruise praises Katie Holmes' Broadway performance

AP
In this Aug. 11, 2008 file photo, actress Katie Holmes poses on the press line at the premiere of the feature film "Tropic Thunder" in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—Katie Holmes made her Broadway debut in "All My Sons" Thursday night, and her husband Tom Cruise thought it was a knockout.

When asked for his verdict on Holmes' performance, Cruise stopped for a moment while moving through the crowd at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre, telling The Associated Press: "Did you see it? ... It was extraordinary."

Hundreds of people bought tickets to see Holmes act on Broadway for the first time in a preview performance for the revival of "All My Sons," co-starring John Lithgow, Dianne Wiest and Patrick Wilson.

The audience collectively gasped when Cruise entered the theater moments before the curtain went up. While anti-Scientology protesters demonstrated outside, the movie star—and Hollywood's most famous Scientologist—mingled and shook hands with some other theatergoers who took photos and clapped. He then hugged Dustin Hoffman, who was sitting a few rows away, which drew another cheer inside the theater.

Amid the hubbub, it took awhile for people to take their seats. Then the moment they'd been waiting for arrived: Holmes and her fellow cast members stepped out on stage to start the play, which officially opens Oct. 16.

If Holmes felt nervous and jittery, she didn't show it. She delivered her lines with confidence and projected her girlish voice so it could be heard loud and clear. She danced around on stage with gusto. She looked lovely in two dresses that highlighted her trim yet shapely figure. She wore a brown shoulder-length hairpiece to hide her trendy pixie cut.

And she received a standing ovation afterward. It's safe to say that no one probably clapped harder than Cruise.

"All My Sons" concerns businessman Joe Keller (Lithgow) whose factory supplied defective cylinder parts to the military, resulting in the deaths of 21 pilots during World War II. Yet it was his business partner who went to jail for the mistake.

Wiest plays Keller's wife; Wilson his idealistic son; and Holmes the son's fiancee and daughter of Keller's disgraced partner.

The role calls for Holmes's character - named Ann - to be at turns winsome and willful, and theatergoer Diane Yatauro thinks she nailed it.

"It was a very tough role in that she had to be delicate and hurt and strong," said Yatauro, 54, of Glen Cove, N.Y. "She was playing against some heavyweights who've been around for a long time and she held her own."

New Yorker Nadja Forbes, 35, said she was impressed by Holmes' stage presence having known her recently as Mrs. Tom Cruise.

THREE WISE GUYS

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Washington Post offers Three Wise Guys, advice on life and other stuff from the male perspective, perpetrated by Post staffers, from left, Justin Rude, Joe Heim and Dan Zak. It may not be professional advice, but their responses to reader questions serve up a deft handling of any conceivable topic.

Elevator etiquette, invisible fences, deer carcasses

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE and DAN ZAK

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Dear Wise Guys: What about those people who enter an elevator after you and push a button you've already pushed?—Rafael

Dan: People who do this are fundamentally unable to trust anyone but themselves. Even though you've hit the button for the lobby, they insist on pressing it again to maintain a level of control over the situation.

Joe: That's why I do it. I like to be in charge.

Dan: Also, an elevator is a tense environment. You can't just walk in and do nothing. Pressing a button, even if it has been pressed, releases a tiny bit of tension. It's an action that says, "I'm here, and I'm choosing this floor myself. I'm going to stand here and ignore you, and we're going to remain calm." Double-pressing an elevator button is a sure sign that the person is weak. Exploit that weakness by demanding their wallet. Make sure you do this before you hit the lobby.

Joe: If you really want to exert power in an elevator, get on and stand facing everyone else. Or sit on the floor. No one will know how to respond.

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Dear Wise Guys: We have five acres enclosed in an invisible fence to keep our large dogs off the street and driveway. The dogs know the boundaries by a chime in their collars, and the little training flags are long gone. But other animals seem to be aware of the boundaries, too. Not just the cats (who know everything), but rabbits, groundhogs and deer graze right outside the invisible fence line, even with the dogs nearby. How in the world do they know the boundary lines?—Sandra

Dan: Cats are telepathic. Groundhogs can smell electricity. Rabbits talk to groundhogs, so they know what's going on.

Joe: Dan just drank half a bottle of cough syrup, so I better take this one. The real answer is that there's not a whole bunch of stupid animals out there. And that's not my opinion, that's a direct quote from Don Moore, associate director for animal care at the National Zoo. He should know, right?

Another thing, Moore says, is that dogs are descended from wolves and, like them, they mark their territory by leaving their scent along the perimeter. Wolves rarely venture into territory that isn't their own, and deer (and other animals) are aware of the boundaries, so they feel free to cavort in these safe havens.

Moore studied deer for his PhD and told me that even if we don't see them, deer are always watching us. That creeped me out.

■ ■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys: I just returned from a road trip to Canada with my children. It seems as though 99.9 percent of the time when a deer is killed by a car, the deer is on the side of the road and not lying in the lanes. I know the drivers are not getting out of their cars to carry the carcasses off to the side. Why does this phenomenon occur?—Inquiring Mom

Joe: This one's easy. Deer are generally acknowledged as the most considerate of all mammals. There is a genetic code passed down through thousands of years that teaches them that if they are unfortunate enough to get hit by a car, they should drag themselves to the side of the road, where they can die peacefully and not inconvenience drivers. (For the record, I ran this theory by the National Zoo's Moore as well, and even though he wouldn't back me up, he couldn't point to any evidence to the contrary, so I'm sticking by this.)

Justin: Now it's Joe who is into the cough syrup. Not to be argumentative, but I think it has more to do with good Samaritans or police who simply pull the deer to the side of the road until they can be dealt with.

Joe: Well, I think the readers can decide which of us is right.

Dan: As if being right has anything to do with any of this.

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This week's motto: Crudus, Puerulus, Ridiculum (submitted by reader Dan Klein, of McLean, Va.)

Have a question only the Three Wise Guys can answer? Send it to wiseguys@washpost.com and await their words of wise-dom.

Celebs gear up for Emmy with freebies, food

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—With the 60th Primetime Emmy Awards just days away, Hollywood is swimming with stars. They're beckoned by gift suites and parties around town, while round-the-clock preparations are under way at the Nokia Theatre, where the awards will be presented Sunday.

SEAL WILL BE THERE

Heidi Klum isn't nervous about co-hosting the Emmys. Just ask her husband.

"You know Heidi. I don't think she really gets nervous," he said on the red carpet Thursday during a Hollywood event at Paramount Studios honoring film producer Arnon Milchan and celebrating the 60th anniversary of Israel. "She's really excited. She's working hard."

Klum was so busy, she was unable to join Seal at the last minute at the glitzy event. The R&B singer, who attended last year's ceremony alongside Klum, said he would again be in the audience to support his supermodel wife.

However, Jason Alexander, who has been nominated for several Emmys but never won, is planning to steer clear of the show.

"Unless they're nominating me just because they like me, I can walk right by it and wave at it and not have to care, although I do have some friends that are nominated that I'll be rooting for at home," Alexander said before the event.

AP

Ryan Myers adjusts a display of photos outside the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles, Friday, Sept 19, 2008, in preparation for the Emmy awards show on Sunday.

CHAMPAGNE DINNER AND EMMY DREAMS

While the city bustled below, six Emmy-nominated actresses gathered high in Beverly Hills to drink, dish and celebrate their success at a special women's dinner to toast this year's nominees.

"It's so sweet to get the female performers together, sit down, no pressure and have some cute food and some champagne or wine that you never tried," said Chandra Wilson, nominated three consecutive years for her work on "Grey's Anatomy." "You come away feeling educated and tipsy."

Alfre Woodard, Sandra Oh, Holland Taylor, Kathryn Joosten, Debbie Allen and Phylicia Rashad gathered poolside on the patio of a private home in the hills with sparkling views of the city for a four-course meal, put on by champagne maker Perrier-Jouet.

"This is very special," said Rashad, who was last nominated for an Emmy in 1986. "It's ladies night - the ladies getting together just being the ladies. It's very, very nice."

The no-pressure event stands in stark contrast to Emmy night, when all will be competing for awards and navigating the hoopla that comes with them.

"The Emmys, it's crazy," said Oh, who brought her mother to the dinner. "You're in your own world, you're stressed out about a lot of things. It's very exciting and it's difficult to have more than maybe 10 seconds to actually connect with someone. I love that this is only the women in a very camaraderie kind of feeling and getting to know women. I just really appreciate it."

Woodard echoed that sentiment.

"These are your homies," she said. "We are the people who work together. We are the people who've walked the same walk and we're the lucky ones who get to work. Once you're thrown into something like the Emmys ... you never see any of your people that night. It's you walking amongst the jugglers and the fire eaters and you're cast in a different role. So it's really great to be together because these are our people."

GIFTS GALORE

Nearly a dozen gift suites scattered throughout the city drew celebs in search of free jeans, handbags and other luxury goodies.

Rachael Leigh Cook, "Dancing With the Stars" contestant Maurice Greene and stars from "High School Musical" were among those collecting gifts at Melanie Segal's Celebrity Emmy House in West Hollywood, a multistory private home with views of the storied Sunset Strip. Stars perused products including blow dryers, blue-tooth headsets, shoes and sunglasses.

Gift suites "are a big deal," said actress Monique Coleman, who grabbed candles, bath products and a T-shirt emblazoned with"Barack the Vote."

Her "High School Musical" co-star Kaycee Stroh called the freebies "a huge blessing," adding that she was most interested in finding hats and jewelry.

Greene was after DVDs - and anything else that caught his eye.

"Everybody loves free stuff," he said. "It's good to mingle with the people providing the stuff because other things could come from this."

The Olympian was captivated by the rock 'n' roll inspired pieces by Dussault, which gave away $700 leather totes and $400 hoodies. But Greene just grabbed a cap. Other celebs relaxed on the house's three patios, where they enjoyed manicures, tarot readings and live piano music.

Down the street at the Secret Room suite, stars such as Deborah Gibson and Zorianna Kit stocked up on vegan cosmetics and electromagnetic-charged water. Some had eyelash extensions applied, while others indulged in psychic readings, manicures and chair massages.

Actress Phoebe Price hit both suites with her mother.

"I always like seeing the latest stuff," she said as her mother kept an eye on her bulging bags of gifts. "I get inspired to see what different designers have to offer."

Price said she plans to attend Sunday's Emmy ceremony in a "very provocative" dress: "I'll cause quite a stir."

RED CARPET ROLLOUT

The Emmy red carpet doesn't resemble a long, elegant hallway. It's more like a living room.

The awards ceremony is being held at the Nokia Theatre for the first time, and instead of a stretch of red carpet, the entire plaza across from the Staples Center will be a carpeted canvas for celebrity interviews and photos.

Preparations began a week ago, with bleachers and platforms constructed outside the new theater. The parking garage is also part of the show: The roof will serve as a pressroom, while the bottom floor is where winners will claim their Emmy trophies.

The Emmy Awards will air live Sunday on ABC.

Trial likely in Spears driving case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears' trial for driving without a valid California license is all set for next month—and the attorney representing her in the criminal matter isn't happy about it.

J. Michael Flanagan, the pop singer's attorney, said the matter is going before a jury due to unfavorable "special treatment" by prosecutors and a judge. Because the violation is a misdemeanor, Spears is not required to attend the trial.

A judge rejected Flanagan's attempts Thursday to get the case reduced or the charge dismissed.

Flanagan has repeatedly argued that the singer is being treated more harshly than other people who have been caught driving without a valid California license. He said under normal circumstances, Spears should be allowed to pay a $10 fine and not face criminal prosecution.

He said Thursday that Los Angeles Superior Court Judge James A. Steele cited Spears' celebrity status during an in-chambers meeting as a reason for not reducing the case to an infraction.

AP

In this Sept. 7, 2008, file photo, Britney Spears poses with her awards backstage at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles.

"He says, 'But I've never done that before. I'd hate to do it the first time and do it for Britney Spears because then it would appear like she's getting special treatment,'" Flanagan recounted Steele telling him.

Steele said through a clerk that he could not comment on the conference in his chambers. A court reporter was not present for the meeting. Flanagan said he will appeal a previous ruling by the judge denying Spears' motion to dismiss the case.

If the case begins as scheduled on Oct. 15, Flanagan said he doesn't plan to present any witnesses or do anything more than make opening and closing arguments to jurors.

"I'm just going to sit there," he said. If Spears is convicted, he said he will appeal that judgment.

The charge is the last remnants of a criminal case city prosecutors lodged against Spears after she hit a parked car in August 2007 and left without notifying the owner. She was originally also charged with hit-and-run, but Spears settled that charge through an agreement with the other car's owner.

Steele is not the only one Flanagan accused of treating Spears, 26, unfairly. On Thursday he said Michael Amerian, a city prosecutor handling the case, is trying to use the matter to boost his own profile because he running to become City Attorney.

"I am right on this issue and I'm not going to bow down to this guy because he's running for City Attorney," Flanagan said. Amerian vehemently denied Flanagan's contention.

"We're treating her fairly in light of the facts in this case," Amerian said. He said he has never mentioned his bid for elected office when discussing Spears' case. He said prosecutors have been consistent on how they've handled the case since it was filed last summer.

"We're trying to treat her as we have anyone else who's been charged with a hit-and-run as well as driving without a valid license," Amerian said.

Flanagan said prosecutors have gone to unusual lengths to try to keep the case alive, including citing Spears' divorce from ex-husband Kevin Federline. Flanagan said prosecutors noted that when Spears filed for divorce in November 2006, she had to certify she had been a California resident for at least six months.

The criminal case was filed in August 2007.

Drivers are supposed to get a California license within 10 days of establishing residency in the state. But Flanagan said Spears had a valid license in Louisiana, which is one of several states where the singer has homes.

The case has been repeatedly postponed since Spears was placed under the conservatorship of her father, James, in February. That arrangement means that he controls the singer's personal and financial affairs and was a result of several high-profile incidents of erratic behavior, including two hospitalizations.

New CD featuring Kanye and more to benefit Obama

NEW YORK (AP)—Barack Obama's presidential campaign, which has inspired a multitude of songs by stars and amateurs alike, is now getting an official soundtrack.

"Yes We Can: Voices of a Grassroots Movement," which takes its title from an Obama campaign slogan, features Kanye West, John Legend, Sheryl Crow, Stevie Wonder and others. It will be available for sale exclusively through Obama's campaign starting Friday.

Proceeds from the CD ($24.99 for a digital download, $30 for a physical product) will help fund Obama's campaign until Nov. 4, Election Day, according Hidden Beach Recordings, which created the CD.

Obama

Steve McKeever, CEO and founder of Hidden Beach, a longtime Obama supporter, said he had been talking to people within the Obama campaign about a project like "Yes We Can" for a while.

"We had conversations quite some time ago about how to harness what was happening really organically and naturally with so many artists," he said. "The whole concept (was) how do we translate that to inspire and invigorate and also give people a keepsake that they can own while at the same time providing some important capital needed for this campaign."

While most of the songs on the disc have been previously released - such as John Mayer's "Waiting On the World to Change" and Stevie Wonder's classic "Signed, Sealed, Delivered I'm Yours"—a few of the songs are new, including Legend's "Pride in the Name of Love" and "Promised Land," a song by Malik Yusef featuring Kanye West and Adam Levine of Maroon 5.

McKeever said he had more than 150 submissions for the CD.

The "Yes We Can" CD is only the latest musical project inspired by Obama. Earlier this year, an all-star music video featuring Legend, Scarlet Johansson, Kate Walsh, Common, and others, led by the Black Eyed Peas' will.i.am and titled "Yes We Can," became a viral sensation, garnering millions of views on the Internet. Will.i.am followed that up with another celebrity-filled video, "We Are The Ones."

There also have been songs by amateurs posted regularly on YouTube.com, while other celebrities—including Jay Jay French of Twisted Sister—have sung Obama-inspired songs. Recently, Dave Stewart debuted his own all-star video, "American Prayer," which featured Whoopi Goldberg, Barry Manilow, Forest Whitaker and Cyndi Lauper.

While Republican presidential candidate John McCain has had songs penned for him, such as "Lead the Way" by a lawyer named Judd Kessler, he has not inspired the same groundswell of musical support.

To make sure the CD project met federal campaign standards, McKeever said it went through a rigorous vetting process. The Obama campaign purchased the rights to the CD, he said, declining to name the price. The artists on the CD "are all being compensated as fair market value for their services," he added.

After the election, the CD is due to be released through other outlets and Hidden Beach will reap the profits.

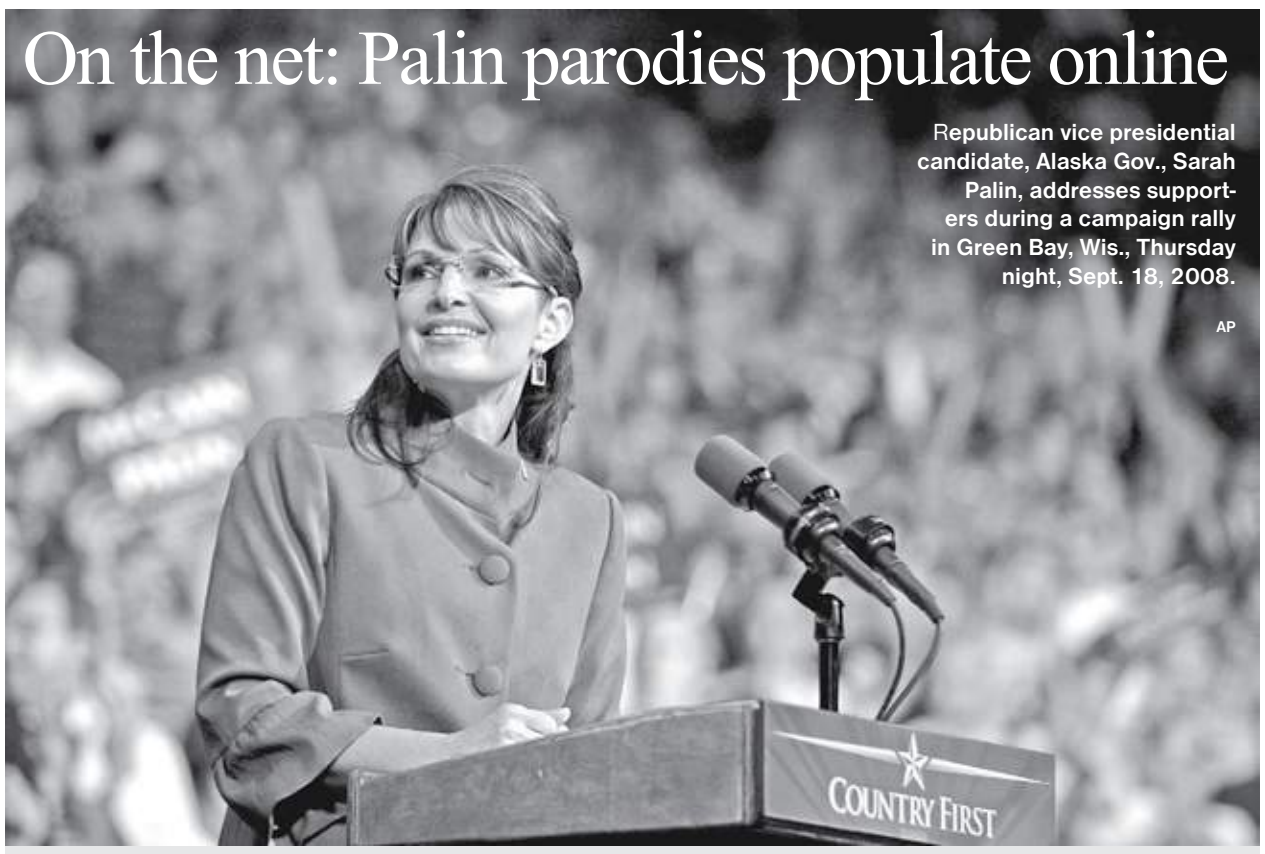
The McCain camp said it had no plans to release a CD of its own and greeted news of Obama's with a dig. "It's ironic that on a day when the economy is in turmoil, Barack Obama fails to release an economic plan, but instead chooses a celebrity rock album," said spokesman Tucker Bounds.

Obama said Friday he was holding off on detailing his plans for the nation's credit crisis because he did not want to risk roiling the markets at such a sensitive time.

Though the CD is to benefit Obama, McKeever said the music on it is not geared specifically toward Democrats.

"I don't think that there's anything on it that's a real partisan message," he said. "The messages I think are quite universal."

On the net: Palin parodies populate online



Republican vice presidential candidate, Alaska Gov., Sarah Palin, addresses supporters during a campaign rally in Green Bay, Wis., Thursday night, Sept. 18, 2008.

AP

It's not just "Saturday Night Live" that's preoccupied with Gov. Sarah Palin.

Since Sen. John McCain named the Alaskan governor as his running mate, Palin has been the subject of countless videos on YouTube and other video sharing sites. Some praise the governor, while others are critical, but an overall fascination is obvious.

The explosion of Palin parodies on the Web is perhaps unlike anything ever seen in politics. Seldom has any politician so quickly and so extensively become a muse for online lampooning.

For starters, the "Saturday Night Live" sketch featuring Tina Fey as Palin and Amy Poehler as Hillary Clinton has been an enormous viral hit. It has been streamed millions of times on NBC's official site, and on YouTube, more than five million have watched clips from TV news broadcasts on the sketch.

(NBC Universal, which owns the network, has famously kept its shows—including "SNL"—off YouTube, and instead co-created the video site Hulu.com. Only second hand clips discussing the sketch have remained on YouTube.)

Lisa Nova (whose real name is Lisa Donovan) is a popular YouTuber whose knack for impressions has helped her land TV roles on shows such as Fox's "MadTV." A video by Nova (the title of which isn't fit for print) that imagines McCain asking Palin to be his running mate has drawn more than 1.6 million views. She's carried on the role by mocking Palin's first TV interview with ABC's Charles Gibson, as well.

Nova, in this case, is YouTube's answer to Fey.

Another popular YouTuber, Philip DeFranco ("sxephil")—who, like Nova, is a partner on the site, which means he can get a cut of advertising dollars from his videos—racked up more than 1.2 million views for his thoughts on Palin, rapidly expressed while looking directly into the camera.

Funny Or Die last week posted a parody of Palin starring Gina Gershon, complete with the actress posing in a bikini with a shotgun—mimicking the widely circulated pictures that were altered to appear as if they were the Governor.

Found footage has also played a role. There are numerous videos on YouTube of Palin as a sports broadcaster for a local news program in her pre-politics days. (To find them, search "Sarah Palin sports.") In the clips, Palin delivers `80s highlights of basketball, baseball and dog mushing.

And these videos only scratch the surface. There are action figures of the governor for sale at HeroBuilders.com. A veritable cottage industry of altered photos of Palin has sprung up. And there's even a site—http://personal-space.com/script/script.php—that parodies the unusual names of Palin's children (Track, Trig, Bristol, Willow and Piper).

On this site, you can input your own name into a generator to find of what your name would be if Palin was your mother. This reporter's, for example, would be Flack Gobbler.

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VIDEO OF THE WEEK: "The Living Room Candidate"

The Museum of the Moving Image this week relaunched its "Live Room Candidate" Web site (http://www.livingroomcandidate.org), updating and expanding its extensive collection of presidential campaign commercials from 1952 right up to this election. It can be a fascinating study in politics and advertising to watch the evolution of these much-maligned ads. Back in 1952, for example, Dwight D. Eisenhower campaigned against Adlai Stevenson with a black-and-white animated spot featuring a jingle: "You like Ike/ I like Ike? Everybody likes Ike for president!"

Natalie Cole hospitalized due to hepatitis C

Cole

NEW YORK (AP)—Natalie Cole, who recently revealed she had hepatitis C, has been hospitalized as a result of side effects from her medication and a heavy promotional schedule, her representative said Friday.

The Grammy-winning singer has been in a New York City hospital since Sept. 12, and is expected to remain there for at least a few days, according to publicist Maureen O'Connor of the firm Rogers & Cowan.

Cole announced in July that she was suffering from hepatitis C, a liver disease spread through contact with infected blood. She said at the time that the disease was revealed during a routine examination and was likely caused by her drug use years ago.

O'Connor said Cole had been responding well to treatment, but blamed the medicine she has been taking and a busy publicity schedule to promote her new album, "Still Unforgettable," with causing her problems. Cole had taped several TV appearances and had appeared live on NBC's "Today" show on Sept. 11, a day before her hospitalization.

Cole is expected to be in the hospital for a few more days and then will return to her home in Los Angeles, where she will be on bedrest, O'Connor said.

"We canceling her activities in October, but we do expect her to have a complete recovery," she said. "She just needs some rest."

O'Connor said Cole has been well enough to talk on the phone everyday, but didn't have much information on her condition.

Cole, the daughter of jazz legend Nat King Cole, has sold millions of albums in her own long career. Her best-selling work was her 1991 multiple-Grammy winning CD, "Unforgettable ... With Love," on which she remade some of her father's classics.

Judge dismisses gun case against Jerry Lewis

Lewis

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A Las Vegas judge has dismissed a firearms charge against entertainer Jerry Lewis. Las Vegas Justice Court Judge Karen Bennett-Haron dismissed the case Friday after attorneys agreed to let the 82-year-old comedian off without fines.

Lewis was cited in July for attempting to carry an unloaded concealed weapon through McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas.

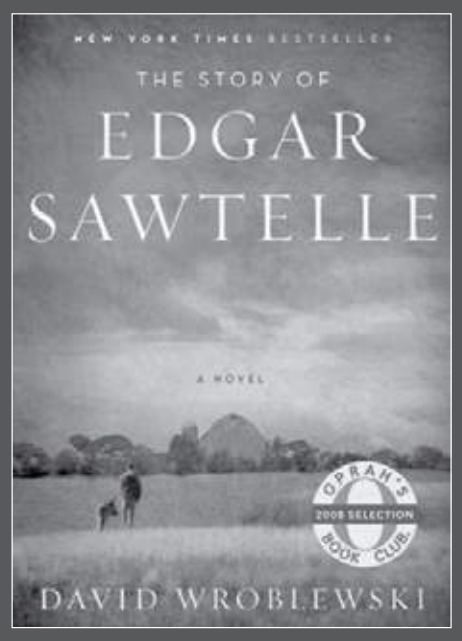
He later said the weapon was a gift that he'd placed in a carry-on bag more than a year ago. He said he forgot it was in the bag until he was stopped at an airport security checkpoint.

Lewis' lawyer, Ross Goodman, says Lewis was forced to surrender the engraved gun. Goodman calls the quick resolution "a good result for great guy."

Winfrey gives the nod to David Wroblewski's novel

CHICAGO (AP)—Oprah Winfrey announced Friday she'd chosen David Wroblewski's "The Story of Edgar Sawtelle" as her latest book club pick, calling the debut novel a classic and the "best novel I've read in a long, long, long time."

"I think this book is right up there with the greatest American novels ever written, I really do," said Winfrey at the end of "The Oprah Winfrey Show." Winfrey raved for several minutes about the novel, comparing it to the work of John Steinbeck and even, she said, Harper Lee, author of "To Kill a Mockingbird."



"I will say that, yes I said it," Winfrey said.

The novel is already one of the summer's hottest reads and is this week ranked ninth on The New York Times best-seller list. It is certain to get a lot hotter with one of the biggest boosts any book can get these days: a little sticker on the cover proclaiming "Edgar Sawtelle" as one of Winfrey's book club selections.

"When you read it you will understand why I had to choose it," Winfrey told her audience. "It is so engaging, so gripping, so epic that I wanted absolutely everybody to share the joy of the story of Edgar Sawtelle."

"Edgar Sawtelle," which Wroblewski worked on for about a decade, is the story of a mute boy who communicates best with his dogs. Wroblewski grew up in rural Wisconsin, the setting for his book, and now lives near Denver with his partner, writer Kimberly McClintock.

Wroblewski appeared via satellite on Friday's program, telling Winfrey from his home in Colorado about writing the book in restaurants and waiting areas and at picnic tables whenever he could, as he worked full-time as a software developer.

Wroblewski said he has been amazed by the reception the book, which he called a "very private project," has received, saying that he wasn't even sure he would find a publisher for it.

"I expected there would be a few readers out there who would connect with it, but what happened this summer was not on my radar at all," he said.

Winfrey, saying the book was part mystery, cautioned viewers to avoid reading the inside cover because she felt that gave away too much of the story.

Winfrey said that sometime in the next few months Wroblewski will take part in a live Q&A webcast session with her for the nearly 2 million members of her book club. A date hasn't been announced.

J.K. Rowling honored by Edinburgh

LONDON (AP)—J.K. Rowling has been honored for her services to the Scottish city in which she dreamed up adventures for Harry Potter, her world-famous boy wizard.

Judges said Friday that Rowling was the unanimous choice to receive the 2008 Edinburgh Award, in recognition for her contributions to Scotland's capital.

Rowling said she was honored.

"Edinburgh is very much home for me and is the place where Harry evolved over seven books and many, many hours of writing in its cafes," Rowling said. "So much has happened to me both professionally and personally since I moved here nearly 15 years ago, that to receive this recognition is particularly meaningful and special."

Edinburgh's ceremonial head, Lord Provost George Grubb, said Rowling was "a tremendous asset to the city, not least for her writing prowess but also for her philanthropy and the vast amount of support she gives to numerous charities."

Last year's Edinburgh Award went to crime writer Ian Rankin.

This Monday, Dec. 10, 2007 file photo shows British writer J.K. Rowling, in London.

AP

Neglect costs dearly when car engine goes up in smoke

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My husband is not very good when it comes to taking care of his car. He never changes the oil—he just keeps adding new oil to the existing.

I have my own vehicle, and I'm always on him to change his oil. I have given him coupons, nagged, begged—you name it. Because of his neglect, his engine burned out and had to be replaced at a cost of $5,000. It was money our family could hardly afford.

Should I take his car in to get regular oil changes, further enhancing his lack of maturity and responsibility? Or should I continue to allow him to take care of his car himself and possibly cost us more money in future repairs?

MOTOR MAMA IN MOBILE

DEAR MOTOR MAMA: In very few marriages are the responsibilities divided exactly down the middle. I'm not implying that you become a beast of burden. However, if there is any doubt in your mind that this experience could be repeated, I recommend that you do your irresponsible spouse a favor and take the car in for servicing. It could save you a bundle.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 26-year-old man. All my life I was taught that the way to a woman's heart is to treat her like a queen. I have tried, and the result has been a marriage that ended in divorce and a string of failed relationships "because I am too good to be true."

Are there so few good guys left that women actually believe that? What do women really want? When I am just myself, I am told I'm "just like everyone else—'fake' until the real relationship begins!" Please help me understand why these women are so quick to pick the bad guy and run from us good guys. Am I doing something wrong?

MIXED UP IN MISSOURI

DEAR MIXED UP: Where are you meeting these dolls? It's obvious to me that you need to widen your circle of acquaintances and fish in a different dating pool. A woman who would say something like what you have quoted in your letter appears to be so bitter and damaged by her past relationships that she no longer has the ability to trust and get involved in a healthy one.

You're not doing anything wrong, so please don't give up. You will find "Miss Right," but not in the places you've been looking.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Please help my wife and me settle a dispute we have been having for the past few years. We have been married to each other twice. The first time was for six years. We divorced for three years, but eventually realized we were better off with each other and have now been happily remarried for 22 years.

When we celebrate our anniversary, we cannot agree on the number of years to celebrate. In the case of our current anniversary, do we say we're celebrating 28 years (the total number of years we've been married) or just from the last wedding date, which would be 22 years?

STILL CONFUSED AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

DEAR STILL CONFUSED: The answer to your question depends upon whether you're a pragmatist, a romantic or a realist. If you're a pragmatist, the answer is 22 years. If you're a romantic it's 28 years. And if you're a realist you'll smile, say, "Yes, Dear," and let your wife decide.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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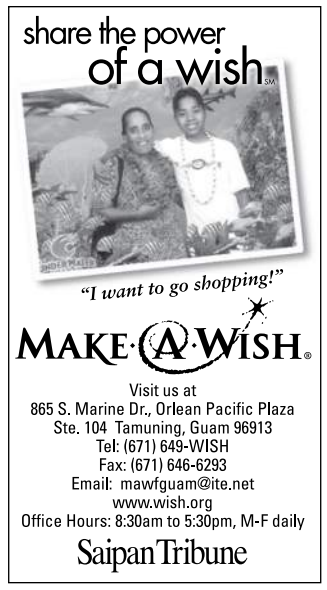

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Americans charge into lead at Ryder Cup

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Phil Mickelson pointed his putter toward the cup, took a step and punched his fist to celebrate a clutch birdie. Boo Weekley revved up the crowd after holing a 50-foot putt from just off the green. Anthony Kim set a record for high-fives. Yes, those were the Americans having all the fun Friday at Valhalla. At the Ryder Cup, no less.

"My cheeks are sore from smiling all day long," Justin Leonard said. "This was a lot different than my other Ryder Cup experiences."

In a stunning turnaround, the Americans rallied from a back-nine deficit four times to take a 5 1/2-2 1/2 lead, their largest margin after the opening day since continental Europe first was included in the Ryder Cup in 1979.

Mickelson and Kim twice came back from a 3-hole deficits and picked up 1 1/2 points, as many as Lefty earned in the last two Ryder Cups combined. Leonard had never won a match in any Ryder Cup until two blowout victories with Hunter Mahan, one of six U.S. rookies who played like recent European dominance really was ancient history.

"We're in a good place," U.S. captain Paul Azinger said. "Who would have thought?"

The Americans hadn't led after any session since last winning the Ryder Cup in the "Miracle at Brookline" in 1999. But with six rookies and no Tiger Woods, they lost only one of eight matches and left European captain Nick Faldo wringing his hands.

Europe has won the last three Ryder Cups - and five of the last six - but now finds itself desperate to catch up.

"We've had a tough time," Faldo said. "We lost a few points, but we haven't lost any spirit."

One of the few bright spots for Europe was Lee Westwood, who tied Arnold Palmer by running his unbeaten streak in the Ryder Cup to 12 matches. Westwood and Soren Hansen birdied the last three holes in the final fourballs match of the afternoon, the last one enough to earn a halve against Weekley and big-hitting J.B. Holmes.

"It's a novelty, isn't it?" Westwood said. "It's not the position we wanted to be in, that's for sure."

Westwood landed in an even worse spot after the long day. In a surprising move, Faldo decided to bench Westwood and Sergio Garcia for the Saturday morning foursomes. Neither has ever missed a Ryder Cup match - 27 straight for Westwood, 22 straight for Garcia. Combined, they have a 27-5-8 record in team play.

AP

USA's Phil Mikelson, right, hugs Anthony Kim after winning their match against Europe during their four-ball match at the Ryder Cup golf tournament at the Valhalla Golf Club, in Louisville, Ky., Friday, Sept. 19, 2008.

Rarely has a European captain shook up his lineup so drastically. But then, rarely is Europe behind.

Azinger sent out the same players for Saturday morning foursomes that he used on the opening day, which produced a 3-1 lead. It was the first time the United States won the first session of the Ryder Cup since 1991.

Even so, Captain America was cautious.

"We've got a long, long way to go," he said. "And we know how good they are."

Even so, it was an amazing start for the Americans.

In the opening match, Mickelson and Kim trailed by three holes with six to play until winning three straight holes and earning a halve against Padraig Harrington and Robert Karlsson. Down by three after four holes in the afternoon, Kim gave them their first lead of the day with a 7-foot birdie on the 14th, and Mickelson dropped in a 20-foot birdie on the 17th that led to a 2-up victory.

"We played with a lot of heart and a lot of emotion today to pull the halve and win out," Mickelson said. "We have a lot of work to do. This is a fun day. I love playing with this guy. Anthony has got this youthfulness to him, and he has a lot of game."

It was a big day for most of the U.S. rookies, who went 3-2-3.

Leonard teamed with one of those rookies, Hunter Mahan, and they won both matches without reaching the 17th hole. The afternoon victory came at the expense of Sergio Garcia, who finally looked ordinary in the Ryder Cup.

It was the first time Garcia failed to win a match in a single day.

Garcia had been undefeated in foursomes (8-0) but had to settle for a halve with Westwood in the morning. Kenny Perry, the lone disappointment for Kentucky, missed a 5-foot par putt that would have won the match on the 17th, then drove into the water on the 18th hole to allow Europe to catch them.

Leonard and Mahan then handed Garcia only his second loss in team matches by going 9 under through 15 holes, with Leonard finishing it off with a chip-in for birdie that had him pumping his fists.

It was a familiar scene across Valhalla.

Weekley, with a pinch of snuff jutting out of his lip and his arms flapping to exhort a spirited crowd, knocked in a 50-foot birdie from just off the green at No. 12 to give his team a lead it never relinquished until the last hole.

And while Weekley and Holmes didn't win the match, they illustrated the Americans' resolve.

Europe had the lead in all four morning matches in the first hour and only came away with one point. It was the first time since 1991 that the United States won the opening session of the Ryder Cup.

In the afternoon, Europe had the lead in three matches going to the back nine, and came away with only 1 1/2 points.

The Americans had watched 11 consecutive matches go to the final hole without winning until Chad Campbell, the final captain's pick, hit a 5-iron to 20 feet on the par-5 18th as he and Stewart Cink went 1-up over Ian Poulter and Justin Rose.

Poulter and Rose won the only match for Europe, a 4-and-2 victory over Steve Stricker and Ben Curtis.

But that wasn't enough to quiet the crowd.

"There was a lot of noise all day, from the first tee on," Cink said. "Just to hear them excited about the way we were playing for a change in the Ryder Cup was refreshing. I've never been able to experience that myself when we were ahead. So it's great.

Bush honors Celtics at White House

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush on Friday welcomed the Boston Celtics to the White House to celeberate the team's 17th NBA championship, declaring "Celtic pride is back."

Bush saluted Celtics' captain Paul Pierce, who led the team to a title and was MVP of the finals despite suffering a knee injury early in the series.

"Playing hurt in a championship game is the ultimate sign of leadership," Bush said during an East Room ceremony.

The team's players, owners and coaches presented the president with a green Celtics jersey emblazoned with "43," a nod to Bush's standing as the 43rd president, and an autographed basketball. The team also said it would send a $100,000 check to the Red Cross to help victims of Hurricane Ike.

Celtics fans, a few wearing Red Sox caps and many, like Vermont Sen. Pat Leahy, snapping photos with their cameras, packed the East Room.

The Celtics beat the Los Angeles Lakers in six games in June to end a 22-year championship drought. The title capped a dramatic turnaround for the Celtics, who had the second-worst record in the NBA during the 2006-07 season.

"There was a little bit of a drought, but sure enough that drought ended with the NBA championship," said Bush.

Bush said that like other sports fans across the country, he was delighted that this year's bruising final series rekindled the old Celtics-Lakers rivalry.

"For baby boomers like me, that is the—that was a reminder of a great basketball rivalry," Bush said. "So, like, Boston fans were screaming, 'Beat L.A.!' at the top of their lungs, and that's exactly what this team did in six hard-fought games."

It was the Celtics' first title without Red Auerbach, the famed team patriarch who died in October 2006 after being part of the other 16 championships, nine as coach.

AP

President Bush takes a group photo with the 2008 NBA Champions Boston Celtics, Friday, Sept. 19,2008, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

Red Sox nip Jays, move closer to playoff berth

TORONTO (AP)—Jason Varitek drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and the Boston Red Sox moved one step closer to a playoff berth with a 4-3 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Friday night.

Boston stayed 1 1/2 games behind first-place Tampa Bay in the AL East and opened a 7 1/2 -game lead in the wild-card race over Minnesota and the New York Yankees.

A win by the Red Sox on Saturday combined with losses by the Twins and Yankees would wrap up at least the wild-card spot for Boston.

The loss ended Toronto's chances of winning the AL East. Another defeat—or a Boston win—would eliminate the Blue Jays from the playoff chase altogether.

Manny Delcarmen (1-2) pitched one inning for the win and Jonathan Papelbon worked around his own error in the ninth to earn his 39th save in 44 opportunities.

Adam Lind opened the ninth with a single off Papelbon's glove, then slid into second just ahead of the tag after the Boston closer threw wildly to first. Pinch-runner Brad

.

AP

Toronto Blue Jays' Joe Inglett tags Boston Red Sox's Jacoby Ellsbury in a rundown during the fifth inning in Toronto, Friday, Sept. 19, 2008.

Rays 11, Twins 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Carlos Pena homered and drove in four runs—with help from a replay reversal—and the Tampa Bay Rays routed the Minnesota Twins 11-1 on Friday night to close in on clinching the first playoff berth in franchise history.

The AL East leaders moved within one win of wrapping up at least a wild-card spot, with Pena's fourth-inning homer coming on the first reversal produced by baseball's instant replay system. Tampa Bay remained 1 1/2 games ahead of second-place Boston in the division.

The Rays can earn a postseason berth for the first time in their 11 seasons by winning one of two remaining games in this series against Minnesota, which began the night trailing the first-place Chicago White Sox by 1 1/2 games in the AL Central.

Edwin Jackson (12-11) allowed one run and seven hits in 7 2-3 innings. Minnesota avoided a shutout with Joe Mauer's sixth-inning sacrifice fly.

White Sox 9, Royals 4

In Kansas City, Missouri, Alexei Ramirez hit a grand slam, Dewayne Wise homered twice and Mark Buehrle pitched six effective innings as Chicago beat Kansas City.

The loss snapped the Royals' seven-game winning streak, their longest since starting the 2003 season 9-0.

The White Sox sent 10 batters to the plate in a six-run fourth inning, scoring all the runs with two outs. Jermaine Dye doubled, Jim Thome singled and A.J. Pierzynski walked before Ramirez tied an AL rookie record with his third grand slam. Shane Spencer hit three for the New York Yankees in 1998. It was Chicago's 11th grand slam this season, tying the club record set in 2006.

Yankees 3, Orioles 2

In New York, Brett Gardner made his bid for the last great catch at Yankee Stadium.

The rookie center fielder robbed Luke Scott with a terrific grab and doubled in a run, sparking New York to a victory over Baltimore in the opener of the final series at the 85-year-old ballpark.

Robinson Cano hit a solo homer for the Yankees, who have won six of seven after losing the homestand opener. Carl Pavano (4-1) settled down after a shaky start and went five innings to win his second consecutive start.

Indians 6, Tigers 5

In Cleveland, Jamey Carroll hit a game-winning single with one out in the ninth inning to give Cleveland a fight-filled victory over Detroit.

Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera hit a pair of two-run homers to tie Chicago's Carlos Quentin for the AL lead with 36.

Cabrera's second homer gave Detroit a 4-2 lead in the seventh. One out later, Indians starter Fausto Carmona hit Gary Sheffield in the left arm with a pitch. After Carmona threw to first on a pickoff attempt, Sheffield motioned and yelled at him. Carmona took a step toward first, yelled, and Sheffield charged at him and both threw punches.

Angels 15, Rangers 13

In Arlington, Texas, Torii Hunter homered and drove in four runs, Kendry Morales and Mike Napoli hit back-to-back homers and Los Angeles set seasons highs for runs and hits (22) to beat Texas.

After Erick Aybar's RBI single in the fifth tied the score at 9, Mark Teixeira had a two-run double that put the AL West champions ahead to stay.

Los Angeles led 7-0 until the Rangers scored nine runs on nine hits in the third. That was the most hits and runs in an inning against the Angels since May 19, 2006, when the Dodgers had 10 runs in one inning and 10 hits in another in a 16-3 victory.

Athletics 2, Mariners 0

In Oakland, California, Travis Buck homered for the first time since being called up from the minors, Dana Eveland pitched seven strong innings and Oakland handed Seattle its ninth straight loss.

The Mariners, shut out for the second consecutive game, haven't scored in 26 innings. They have been blanked four times this season with Felix Hernandez (9-11) on the mound and 12 times overall.

Eveland (9-8) pitched out of trouble all game, earning his first win in six starts. He scattered seven hits and matched his career high with seven strikeouts to lead the A's to their fifth victory in six games.

Mets 9, Braves 5

In Atlanta, pinch-hitter Daniel Murphy delivered a tiebreaking double in the eighth inning and New York regained first place in the NL East by beating Atlanta 9-5 on Friday night.

Jose Reyes hit a leadoff homer and had three hits to help the Mets move a half-game in front of Philadelphia, which lost 14-8 at Florida.

New York overcame some shaky defense and improved to 1-6 this season at Turner Field, where the Phillies went 9-0.

Marlins 14, Phillies 8

In Miami, rookie Cameron Maybin had four hits for the second straight game and tied a franchise record by reaching base in 10 consecutive plate appearances for Florida, which tied a franchise record with their ninth consecutive win.

The Phillies had their season-best seven-game winning streak and fell out of first place in the NL East.

Brett Myers (10-12), who pitched a two-hitter in his last start, gave up five runs in his first 17 pitches before retiring a batter. He departed with no outs in the fifth and allowed a career-high 10 runs.

Cardinals 12, Cubs 6

In Chicago, Adam Kennedy capped a five-run first inning with a grand slam, and St. Louis beat Carlos Zambrano and Chicago, slowing the Cubs' march toward a second straight NL Central title.

Chicago clinched at least a tie for the division when Milwaukee lost 11-2 to Cincinnati.

After pitching the Cubs' first no-hitter in 36 years Sunday against Houston in Milwaukee, Zambrano (14-6) allowed eight runs and six hits in 1 2-3 innings, his shortest outing in two years.

Reds 11, Brewers 2

In Cincinnati, Joey Votto and Jay Bruce both hit two homers and Cincinnati hit seven overall against Milwaukee's tattered pitching staff.

Milwaukee's 14th loss in 18 September games left the Cubs one victory—or a Milwaukee loss—from clinching their second straight NL Central title. The Brewers are 1 1/2 games behind Philadelphia in the wild-card race.

Milwaukee hadn't given up more than five homers in a game this season.

Jeff Suppan (10-10), who was 5-0 in August but is 0-3 while allowing 19 earned runs in 16 1-3 innings in September, lasted only two innings.

Rockies 3, Diamondbacks 2

In Denver, Jorge De La Rosa threw six solid innings and Chris Iannetta and Clint Barmes homered for Colorado.

The loss ended the Diamondbacks' four-game winning streak and put a dent in their chances of catching the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL West. Arizona came into Friday 3 1/2 games behind the Dodgers with 10 games to go.

Garrett Atkins had three hits for the Rockies. Adam Dunn homered and had two hits, and Mark Reynolds homered for Arizona.

Astros 5, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Randy Wolf allowed three hits in seven innings and Hunter Pence had two hits and three RBIs to help Houston snap a five-game losing streak.

Wolf (11-12) gave up one run and struck out seven to win for the third time in four starts this month. The left-hander beat the Pirates for the second time in 10 days and won his sixth straight decision against Pittsburgh.

Padres 11, Nationals 6, 14 innings

In Washington, Chase Headley had four hits, including a tie-breaking triple that keyed San Diego's five-run 14th inning.

It was a game between the teams with the worst records in the National League. Both began the game, which lasted 5 hours, tied with 58-95 marks.

With the score tied at 6, Kevin Kouzmanoff led off the 14th and was hit by a pitch by Levale Speigner (0-1), Washington's ninth pitcher which tied a club record. Headley, who also had two doubles and a single, tripled off the right field wall to score.

Junior Nationals eclipse Suns in Rotary caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Nationals foiled the Suns' bid to start a winning streak, as the former cruised to a 68-49 victory in their game in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Suns entered the win column Monday night when they defeated the Chalan Kanoa Saints 43-38, but were denied back-to-back wins by the Junior Nationals.

In contrast, the Junior Nationals continued their run, claiming their fourth straight win in five games.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI Junior Nationals' John Villagomez loses his balance, as he goes for a shot and is hit by a Suns defender during their game in the Rotary caging Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Junior Nationals' lone loss was at the hands of the Southern Sonics during the opening of the 18-and-under tournament.

The Junior Nationals had a hard time pulling away against the Suns in the first half, which ended with the former leading by only four, 32-28.

The Suns managed to tie the game at 38-all after Josh Kiyoshi canned a triple and Jimmy Brel split his charities, with 13:34 left in the second half.

But that was the closest that the Suns could get, as the Junior Nationals returned to business and had a 30-11 windup.

Marvin Rabauliman led the Junior Nationals' breakaway in the second half, making 13 of his 21 points in that period.

Jose Castro, one of the new additions to the Junior Nationals' roster this season, scored in double figures for the first time, drilling 14 markers. Jericho Cruz and Joseph White chipped in 12 and 11 points, respectively.

Brel led the Suns' losing cause, hitting 18 points, while Bo Yamada added 13.

The Junior Nationals will not be playing the Rotary caging next week, as they head to Guam for the 7th FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament.

The Oceania caging will run from Sept. 27 to October 5 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse in Mangilao.

The CNMI cagers will show their wares against players from the host, Palau, Tahiti, New Caledonia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and powerhouse Australia.

The Suns will also have a five-day break, as their next match will be on Thursday against the Rollers II. The Suns hold a 1-4 record and are slightly picked against the Rollers II, who are winless in six games.

CNMI Junior Nationals 68—Rabauliman 21, Castro 14, Cruz 12, White 11, Moses 8.

Suns 49—Brel 18, Yamada 13, Kiyoshi 4, Maratita 5, Salas 2.

Scoring by halves: 32-28, 68-49.

Referees: Gabriel White and Arnold Mesa

4 Corners lead in A Division of darts tourney

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Utopia 4 Corners continued to pad their lead in the A Division of the ongoing Saipan Electronic Darts Association tournament after last Thursday's rounds.

The 4 Corners now have 58 wins and 27 losses to top the six-team field. D'Pirates D-Destroyers are running second with a 51-34 slate, while VFW Major Leaks remained in third with a 49-36 record.

Completing the A Division teams are Sierra's Shakem Up (42-43), Vargas Snipers (35-50) and Primos Seki D Umber (20-65).

In the Masters division, Oleai Black Stallion kept its grip of the lead with a 49-36 win-loss record, while Oleai D'Companeros closest behind with a 48-37 mark. The Oleai Heavy Bombers hold a 39-46 slate, and the VFW Chubby Wockees have a 34-51 record.

In Tuesday B Division, Oleai No Fear stayed on top with a 49-26 record, followed by Krystal 80 Proofers (47-28), Primos Pay Day Time (43-32), Primos Naughty BoyZ (43-32), Jonny's Insane Dart Posse (38-37), Jonny's Fujin (36-39), D'Pirates B Destroyers (28-47), and Jonny's Samurai (16-59).

The Utopia Hot Shots are ahead in the nine-team field Thursday B Division with their 48-27 lead. Lagging behind are the Primos Warriors with a 36-24 slate , Len's Light Out (35-25), Oleai Shooters (32-28), Coral Reef b-Barracuda (28-32), The Flair Sakude Umbre (33-42), Oleai Get Er Done (32-43), D'Pirates Dart Knights (32-43), and Naked Fish Naked Boyz (24-36).

Team standings in others divisions are as follows:

C Division: Naked Fish (47-28), VFW Clubmates (37-38), Coral Barracuda (37-38), Jonny's Asian Dart Heads (36-24), Gaia Bonzai (33-42), Naked Fish Hafa Mas (30-30), Primos No Expectations (29-31), Remington Dart Vador (28-32), and Coral Reef Shark Attack (23-37).

Ladies Division: Naked Fish Naked Shooters (42-18), Oleai B-52's (37-23), Coral Reef Mermaids (25-35), Coral Reef Sting Rays (24-36), and Jonny's Com (22-38).

Rocball starts preseason matches next month

The islands' only indigenous sport, Rocball, returns for its 26th year early next month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The sport's founder, Jim Feger, said the longest uninterrupted extra-curricular sport activity of the CNMI's Public School System will start with its preseason games on Oct. 6.

"Team net sport players interested in competing in this year's Rocball games need to form a team, choose a captain, and register with me at the MHS Gym during the MHS Drug and Violent Free Safe Haven Program," said Feger.

The aforementioned program runs between 5pm and 8pm Monday through Thursday, and Saturday.

Feger said seven teams have already signed up for this year's season of Rocball competition. They are led by last year's champion Evenflow, No-Mercy, Soul Rebels, Okies, Naturals, Uraiwak, Section A, and Ghasias Brothers.

The Ghasias Brothers were former triple crown champions and are raring to make a comeback in the 2008 season.

Feger first wrote about the rules for Rocball in Ebisu, Japan in 1979. The sport itself went through a two-year experimental period at Hopwood Junior High School from 1981 to 1983. Rocball started being played as a regular sporting activity in 1983.

Feger said Rocball is unique because it is the first team net sport to develop offensive and defensive scoring, multiple-point scoring, penalty point scoring, and included goals for scoring in this kind of sport.

The offensive and defensive scoring developed for the indigenous sport of Saipan predated the Federation International de Volleyball's adoption of rally point scoring by 15 years.

Rocball is also the first sport of this kind that developed a scoring system, where a team could win a game by total amount of points scored using a set system of play.

The unique sport is played on a slightly modified standard volleyball court with an overhead net bisecting team courts and a 6x12-foot soccer type goal located 10 feet behind each court. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

AUTONOMOUS

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games due to an injury, make up for the lost time, leading his team's scoring binge in the fourth period, firing nine of its first 14 points.

Luis Iguel broke Corrections' long silence with a fastbreak layup in the 3:44 mark. DOC's lone point in the first point came from a Maverick Itibus' split free throw at the start of the fourth quarter.

Iguel along with Jeff Quitugua did not start for Corrections in the fourth period and came in only at the 7:38 mark when Autonomous was starting to grab the momentum of the game.

Corrections next two field goals came in the last one minute of the match when the game was already in the bag for Autonomous after Tim Wesley scored six straight points giving his team a 79-69 lead.

Diaz paced Autonomous with 25 points, while Bobby Coldeen chipped in 22. Wesley finished with 15 markers.

Quitugua topscored for Corrections with 27 points, but was held to four points in the fourth period. Iguel contributed 22, but also had only four markers in the crucial fourth canto.

DOC bowed out of the competition with a 2-2 record in the double-elimination playoffs. It also lost to Autonomous in the first round of the playoffs, 68-82.

Autonomous 83—Diaz 25, Coldeen 22, Wesley 15, Brostrom 6, Aaron 6, Camacho 5.

Corrections 69—Quitugua 27, Iguel 22, Mendez 10k, Itibus 3, Iramk 3, Blas 2, Mendiola 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-all, 41-44, 59-62, 83-69.

Referees: Gilbert Espinosa and Arnold Mesa

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Pungilug, Kirk Schuler, Carie Schuler, Sujung Lee, Ann Munoz, Macoy, and Bernie Tarobul.

Team 2: KC Pungilug, Scott Eck, Laurie Peterka, Natalie Hill, Nick Swaim, Jeff, Mel Borja, and Tiew Wilson.

Team 3: Jessica Uematsu, Kegn Hall, Keoni Ichihara, Jeff Cloud, Clark Boswell, Marley Buchun, Nicole French, and Louise Oakley.

Team 4: Mika Okubo, Lucky, JR Gechig, Scotty Silva, Gin Gridley, Edwin Paasian, Stee Nutlling, and Jhie Vallo.

Off Twice : Lindsey Sosovec, Rex, Alex Hammet, Jay Kang, Amanda Armstrong, Amie McRoberts, Angie Perez, Autumn Beechler, and Youme Sharry.

Enyophace: Bruce Berline, Apple, Ken Tanzawa, Mel Matson, Dan Westpal, Brandon Chargualaf, Shiela Figueroa, and Toi.

Team 7: Larry Sharry, Jazz Roscow, Rob Jordan, Luther Taylor, Gordon Semen, Elizabeth Henke, Jenni Brown, and Dana McFadden.

MHS Peers: Tamino Nartin, Frandolee Tito, Azumi Ishida, Theodora Lizama, Joemil Lisua, and Jeff Bacani.

MHS Okies: John Nekaifes, Typhoon Saito, Jordan Marciano, Barry Mality, Charnessa Lizama, Mildred Kintol, and Heartim Williams.

MHS Serves Up!: Yi Ho Liang, Mark Reyes, Shelly Sablan, Marlyn Guillermo, Troy Santos, Matthew Mancao, and Ken Yoshimoto;

MHS 67 Doh-Fins: Jordan Igisomar, Wilton Laniyo, Cecile Nogis, Dionicia Hosono, Aemir Villegas, Champ Untalan, and Christian Hidalgo.

OLE

From Page 28

shoots up to the plate."

I'll go with Satchel Paige, who because of segregation did not play in the major leagues until he was either 41 or 43, and then went on to help Cleveland win the World Series. He won 12 games when he was something like 45 or 47 years old. See, no one really knew when he was born, not even Satchel. Here's what he had to say about that.

"Now about my age. That's usually a subject for women but I guess we got to go into it because the way everybody is fussin' it seems it's as important as the secret of the atomic bomb.

Right before study into this I want everybody to understand one thing. If I'm a little fuzzy about some of the dates in my life, it's because I always got a problem a whole lot bigger to conjure with. I got to keep thinkin' of my pichin'.

My mother didn't tell nobody my age. She had eleven children. How can she keep track of their birthdays?

A judge in California says I'm 48. He says I was 41 about seven years ago when I was arrested for speeding. I suppose you gotta believe a judge.

I can show you a man who says I'm over 60. Everybody's got a different number. They play bingo with me."

Next week, more on Satchel, maybe or maybe not the greatest pitcher of all time, but certainly the greatest storytelling pitcher of all time.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	91	61	.599	_
Boston	90	63	.588	1 1/2
New York	83	71	.539	9
Toronto	82	73	.533	10
Baltimore	67	85	.441	24

Central Division

Chicago	85	68	.556	_
Minnesota	83	71	.539	2 1/2
Cleveland	76	77	.497	9
Detroit	71	81	.467	13 1/2
Kansas City	69	85	.448	16 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	94	59	.614	_
Texas	75	79	.487	19 1/2
Oakland	72	81	.471	22
Seattle	57	96	.373	37

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	86	67	.562	_
Philadelphia	86	68	.558	1/2
Florida	81	72	.529	5
Atlanta	67	87	.435	19 1/2
Washington	58	96	.377	28 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	92	60	.605	_
Milwaukee	84	70	.545	9
Houston	81	72	.529	11 1/2
St. Louis	80	73	.523	12 1/2
Cincinnati	71	82	.464	22 1/2
Pittsburgh	64	90	.418	29

West Division

Los Angeles	80	74	.519	_
Arizona	76	77	.497	3 1/2
Colorado	71	83	.461	9
San Francisco	69	85	.448	11
San Diego	59	95	.383	21

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 3, Baltimore 2
Cleveland 6, Detroit 5
Boston 4, Toronto 3
Tampa Bay 11, Minnesota 1
L.A. Angels 15, Texas 13
Chicago White Sox 9, Kansas City 4
Oakland 2, Seattle 0
St. Louis 12, Chicago Cubs 6
Houston 5, Pittsburgh 1
Florida 14, Philadelphia 8
Cincinnati 11, Milwaukee 2
N.Y. Mets 9, Atlanta 5
San Diego 11, Washington 6, 14 innings
Colorado 3, Arizona 2
San Francisco 7, L.A. Dodgers 1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Rotary Standings

Southern Sonics	6	0
San Antonio Sixers	4	0
CNMI Jr. Nationals	4	1
G-Stars	3	2
Rollers I	2	2
Kontenders	2	3
Suns	1	4
C.K. Saints	0	4
Rollers II	0	6

Red Sox nip Jays, move closer to playoff berth

Jason Varitek drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and the Boston Red Sox moved one step closer to a playoff berth with a 4-3 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Friday night. 26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Americans charge into lead at Ryder Cup

Phil Mickelson pointed his putter toward the cup, took a step and punched his fist to celebrate a clutch birdie. 25

Autonomous boosts title-defense bid

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Corrections' Walter Mendez, left, dives to steal the ball from Autonomous' Ed Diaz during their game in the PTI caging Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Autonomous moved a win away from earning a return trip to the finals in the 2008 PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League after outlasting the Department of Corrections, 83-69, Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Autonomous pushed the right buttons in the fourth quarter and held Corrections to only a free throw in the first six minutes of the payoff period to advance to the semifinals.

The defending champion will duel Northern Marianas College tomorrow for the second finals ticket and for the right to face PTI in the title showdown.

A depleted Autonomous crew poured in its remaining strength in the fourth canto, outgunning Corrections, 24-7.

Autonomous had only six players available for the game, while Corrections, besides its starting five had four players coming off the bench.

With a limited manpower, Autonomous paced itself well, keeping Corrections within striking distance in the first three quarters, until it found an opportunity to pull away in the fourth period.

Autonomous tied DOC in the first period and was down by only three at halftime, 41-44.

Corrections was still leading by three, 62-59, at the end of the third canto, when Autonomous made its move, launching a 14-1 attack to take a 71-63 lead, with 4:14 left on the clock.

Ed Diaz, who missed Autonomous' last two playoff

See AUTONOMOUS on Page 27

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

Ole Satchel

Quick—who's the greatest pitcher of all time?

Ask the batters in any of Nolan Ryan's seven no-hitters and twelve one-hitters and they may say he was. But his career winning percentage was less than 53% which is not great.

I had the fortune of seeing Sandy Koufax pitch in Dodger Stadium a few times and numerous times on television. I've considered him the all-time toughest pitcher to hit. But he was great only for five years.

I saw Pedro Martinez pitch while sitting next to the dugout and understood why he shut out the other team. Randy Johnson in his prime was dominating.

I've heard that Walter Johnson was the best pitcher of all-time. Yeah, but try to prove it. Everyone who saw him pitch in person or on television, raise your hand. I don't see any hands up.

Bob Gibson had the single best season statistically speaking. Perhaps the fifteen inch high mound helped.

It's like an argument with your wife. You can't win even if you have the facts right.

(Notice I didn't put Roger Clemens in the discussion of greatest pitchers which would be the same as putting Mark McGwire as one of the greatest home run hitters of all time.)

Since we cannot easily determine the greatest pitcher of all time as it is subjective and dependent of one's definition of great, let's rephrase the question. Who is the greatest storytelling pitcher, besides Clemens of course?

Dizzy Dean would be a good candidate. Here's one of his lines: "Bill Terry once hit a ball between my legs so hard that my centerfielder caught it on the fly backing up against the wall."

He also said this: "I know who's the best pitcher I ever see and it's Satchel Paige, that big lanky colored boy. My fastball looks like a change of pace alongside that little pistol bullet ole Satchel

See OLE on Page 27

Rota Blue Triatlon set for Nov. 16

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The 15th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon will be held bright and early on Nov. 16 in the CNMI's southernmost chain.

The 15th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon will be held bright and early on Nov. 16 beginning at 6:30am in the southernmost chain of the CNMI.

The Rota Blue Triathlon consists of two events—both include a swim, a bike, and a run course.

Type A requires participants to swim 1.5 kilometers, bike the distance of 40 kilometers, and run the remaining distance of 10 kilometers.

Type B, meanwhile, will be a 2-km swim, a 90-km bike course, and a 21-km run. Both courses start at the entrance of the Rota Airport and finish at the Roundhouse. The Department of Public Safety will provide safety for athletes during the swim portion of the race.

"Over the years, the Rota Blue Triathlon has become an event that brings many athletes to the island of Rota," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "Each year this event has gained international attention and has served to showcase the many sport related opportunities the island has to offer. We are pleased to have another successful coordination of this sporting event. This year, we are anticipating participants from Guam, Japan, and elsewhere in Asia."

The entry fee for the Type A solo triathlon (all three events) is $80 (no time limit), Type B solo triathlon (all three events) is $100 (time limit is eight hours), while the Type A Team Triathlon is $210 for a team of three or $140 for a team of two (no time limit).

Entry fee includes an event T-shirt, awards banquet entry, and a guaranteed great time. Top prizes also await the Top 3 finishers in the men's and women's categories. The annual Rota Blue Triathlon is one of four major triathlon events held in the CNMI—the others being the XTERRA Saipan Championship, Tagaman Triathlon, and the Tinian Turquoise Blue events.

The annual Rota Blue Triathlon is sponsored yearly by the KFC (Kiyokazu Fitness Club) Triathlon of Japan, MVA, the Rota Mayor's Office, CNMI government departments and agencies, and the people of Rota.

For more information about the Rota Blue Triathlon, contact MVA by calling (670) 664-3200/3201, or e-mail inquiries to mva@mymarianas.com. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

11 teams join Miller Lite 4-person beach volleyball

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

A total of 11 teams will be competing in the 2008 Miller Lite 4-person Beach Volleyball League, which will kick off on Sept. 23 at the Pacific Islands Club beach volleyball court.

The list include Off Twice, Enyophace, MHS Peers, MHS Oakies, MHS Serves UP, and MHS 67 Doh-Fins. Five others have yet to decide the names for their teams, though they have already submitted their roster of players.

Each team has eight players bringing the total of participants to 88.

Four games will be played every Tuesday and Thursday with the opening to start at 5:30pm,

The league will run until Nov. 6 with the playoffs to be held on Nov. 11 and Nov. 13.

The top eight teams after the regular season will qualify for the playoffs which will have a single-elimination format.

The No. 1 team will meet the No. 8 squad, No. 2 vs. No. 7, No. 3 vs. No. 6, and No. 4 vs. No. 5.

Major sponsors for this year's tournament are PIC, PTC, Miller Light, Propel, and Pepsi.

The MHS Okies and Team No. 4 will kick off the hostilities in the 11-team tournament as they duel in the first game on Tuesday.

Other games on the opening day are Off Twice vs MHS Peers; Team No. 2 vs Team No.7; and Team No. 3 vs Enyophace.

Last Thursday night organizers held a draft to determine the composition of each team. The following are the rosters of the 11 participating squad:

Team 1: Rob Epley, Marino

See 11 on Page 27